

## Guest Editorial

The Society of Perinatal Obstetricians is an organization which was not even an idea ten years ago. It began with the decision of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology to certify subspecialists in Maternal and Fetal Medicine, in 1974. By 1977, there were about 60 such subspecialists, and the Society of Perinatal Obstetricians was conceived. The embryonic organization grew as more people passed the Maternal-Fetal Medicine examinations and became eligible for membership. In 1981, viability was achieved, as demonstrated by the first scientific meeting. This very young organization has grown substantially, now numbering 438 obstetrician-gynecologists. About half have been certified as specially competent in Maternal and Fetal Medicine, while the rest are eligible for eventual certification. With a membership of such proportions, it is plain that the Society is rapidly approaching adolescence.

Most of us are familiar with adolescents, either having had one or been one at some time in our lives. Characteristically, adolescents often disagree with what has been taught to them. They usually have their own ideas about things, and are frequently argumentative in expressing them. However, they set the styles for the next several years, and they always provide our future leaders. Most

importantly, they like to be heard. Thus, this special issue of the Journal from our Society.

As is usual with special things, many people worked together. The members of the Society responded enthusiastically to this project. Doctors HAYASHI, 1983 President, PETRIE, our 1984 President, and MORRISON, our Program and Publications Chairman, were enormously involved. My staff at New York University worked very hard, as did Dr. DUDENHAUSEN, to achieve this issue. Most appropriately, the creative force behind this mutual cooperation was Professor ERICH SALING. As the first executive editor of the Journal of Perinatal Medicine, and as a pioneer in perinatal research, he has fostered the development of perinatology as a special branch of Medicine. This joint effort of the Society of Perinatal Obstetricians and the Journal of Perinatal Medicine, of European and American perinatology, also is a consequence of the vision of ERICH SALING. International cooperation and shared information among all students of perinatology is the goal we seek. In pursuit of that ideal, the Society of Perinatal Obstetricians is pleased to essay this first special publication of the work of its members, in the Journal of Perinatal Medicine.

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