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Editorial

Jubilee Issue

This Jubilee Issue of EJOGR celebrates the Journal's 25th birthday. The conception of the Journal took place during the FIGO World Congress in New York (April 17, 1970) in the Hotel Americana. Discussion started between the Dutch and Belgian Professors about the already existing Dutch Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The question was raised if it was efficient to publish in the Dutch language.

Although there was no full agreement the change towards a Journal using the English language was made and the Journal became the "European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology" supported by the Societies of Ob-Gyn in The Netherlands and Northern Belgium.

The first Editorial Board was founded: Lou Stolte (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) as Chief Editor, Ted Kloosterman (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and Robert Derom (Ghent, Belgium). Also a Foundation for the Journal was raised (Eskes, Stolk, Barents, Derom, Renaer, Kool, van der Putten).

To ensure a standard of sufficient scientific quality the referee system was adopted. Each contribution had to be evaluated by at least two referees: the peer review system.

The very first volumes already gave an international reaction. A reader asked why do you spend two full pages presenting a photograph of a rabbit in the article of Carter et al: Parturition in the rabbit (EJOGR 1971; 2: 37-68). The question was never answered.

In 1973 the title of the Journal changed and added "...and Reproductive Biology". This was done to give expression to the unmistakable trend of basic biological sciences penetrating deeply into Obstetrics and Gynecology (Editorial EJOGR 1973; 3: 1).

The Editorial Board was enlarged to five members: The United Kingdom (MacDonald), Germany (Wulf), France (Sureau), Northern-Belgium (Derom) and The Netherlands (Stolte).

In 1977 Eskes was nominated as Chief Editor while Stolte was resigning. In 1980 EJOGR wanted to be independent of the parent Dutch and Belgian Ob-Gyn

Societies, The following years were not easy because of the loss of bulk subscription. However the Journal survived.

Chester B. Martin Jr was assistant Chief Editor from 1980 until 1985 together with Henk Wallenburg.

In 1985 receiving editors were appointed for the United Kingdom (James O'Drife, later Jim Thornton) and in 1986 for Germany (Wolfgang Künzel) and in 1987 for France (Gilles Crépin, later Jacques Lansac) and in 1995 for the Scandinavian countries (Nils-Otto Sjöberg).

The Journal affiliated with the European Association of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (EAGO) in 1986. The Congresses of EAGO were published yearly as well as the Minutes of the General Assembly.

The Journal published various special issues and symposia and also structured the contents of a volume more systematically according to the subspecialty heading. In 1992 the European College of Obstetrics and Gynecology was founded in Paris and affiliated with the Journal in 1993 under the final name of European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (1997).

What is it that our readers want from us? First of all: quality papers. Second: important for daily practice. Third: studies and research on provocative and still unknown issues. These "unknowns" are easy to mention: for Obstetrics the issue of premature labor and preterm birth did not change much in the last years. We have to realize that 8% of the preterms count for 75% of the morbidity and mortality of all newborns.

Children from mothers with pre-eclampsia die five times more than controls. The cause of pre-eclampsia is still unknown.

Birth defects count for a substantial part of perinatal morbidity and mortality and raise difficult ethical issues when prenatal diagnostics is applied. Although periconceptional folic acid supplementation can prevent neural-tube defects in 72%-100% of cases, the real cause of most defects is unknown. In Science traditionally the "Breakthrough of the year" are announced as the top ten. You can

guess that HIV will be and indeed is number one. Fortunately also Ob-Gyn was in the picture: on place 9 the biological positioning of the embryo.

The issue of birth weight revived when Barker's hypothesis was introduced into Obstetrics: "Fetal origin of adult disease" namely hypertension, coronary disease and diabetes. This brings us to the non-pregnant state. Urgent scientific and clinical issues next to infertility are cardiovascular disease in the postmenopause. Although mammary carcinoma is an important issue women die from coronary heart disease 2.5 times more than from mammary carcinoma. Also the issue of oestrogens and cancer has to be studied thoroughly.

For all these multifactorial diseases more and more genes and gene-mutations are reported in the literature as being responsible. It is here that a close research harmony has to be established with genetics.

The contributions in this Jubilee Issue are written by highly esteemed colleagues covering many disciplines. It is in this multidisciplinary approach that we see a good future for Ob-Gyn and our Journal.

Tom K.A.B. Eskes,
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Chief Editor