

The American Journal of Orthopedics Turns 40

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This year marks the 40th anniversary of publication of *The American Journal of Orthopedics*. Only 2 other professional orthopedic journals have a longer publishing history than this journal. In recognition of this milestone, we will sponsor several initiatives, in both print and online (www.amjorthopedics.com), in the coming year, including online audio interviews with senior members of the Editorial Board, as well as special print departments describing important milestones and industry innovations in orthopedic surgery during this time. In this month's editorial, I would like to share with you a brief history of the journal, and my opinion (admittedly biased!) accounting for its longevity.

The American Journal of Orthopedics began life as *Orthopaedic Review* in 1971, with Alexander Garcia, MD (then Chairman, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, New York) as its founding Editor in Chief. *Orthopaedic Review* was renamed *The American Journal of Orthopedics* in 1995 and has been published by Quadrant HealthCom Inc. in Parsippany, New Jersey, since 1996.

Several factors have contributed to *The American Journal of Orthopedics*'s success over the last 40 years. I believe the most important factor is that it has remained true to its core mission: the presentation of "timely, practical, and reliable technical information of the highest caliber to the orthopedic surgeon involved in the everyday practice of orthopedics." Another aspect that has contributed to the journal's success is the commitment to the "diversity of practice interests" among its readers. *The American Journal of Orthopedics* remains among one of the less than a handful of professional orthopedic journals that is a nonspecialty publication, offering a range of diverse clinical topics in any issue. Our journal is dedicated to the needs of



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all orthopedic surgeons involved in clinical practice and is not restricted to the interests of one particular subspecialty.

The American Journal of Orthopedics has witnessed many changes in orthopedic surgery in the past 40 years, yet some aspects of its publication have changed very little during this time. To offer some perspective of the changes in our field during the past 40 years, in 1971 there were very few, if any, follow-up studies of a brand-new technique introduced in the United States: Charnley's total hip arthroplasty. Also, there was not one article even mentioning the use of a new instrument called the arthroscope. It would be difficult these days to read any general orthopedic journal that did not contain an article reporting on total hip arthroplasty or arthroscopy of the knee and shoulder. Several features of the journal have not changed during its 40 years, however. For instance, general review articles of common topics that summarize the latest information on clinically relevant topics and are presented by acknowledged experts in the field have been published from the beginning, and currently are presented in our "Pinnacle" and "5 Points" series, which were initiated by former Editor in Chief, John S. Gould, MD. Another feature that has not changed over the years is the publication of original research studies on a host of clinical topics.

The American Journal of Orthopedics could not have thrived over the past 40 years without the dedication and talents of its remarkable Editorial Board. A brief perusal of the journal's masthead will reveal leaders in every subspecialty of orthopedic surgery, with many recognized as true experts in their particular fields. Equally important to the success of the journal is the remarkable efficiency and hard work of the editorial staff that produces both the print and online journal each month.

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For the future, *The American Journal of Orthopedics* will continue to fulfill its mission: to provide our readers with practical and relevant clinical information that you have come to expect over the past 40 years. However, the journal will need to adapt to the recent challenges imposed on print publications

in order to satisfy the terms of that mission. Such adaptations will include more publications online (first initiated at *The American Journal of Orthopedics* in 2007) and increasing partnerships with industry leaders to produce both print and online educational publications to further enhance the delivery

of quality and relevant information to our readers. By balancing the commitment to our core mission, with the need to embrace new technology and innovation, *The American Journal of Orthopedics* hopes to continue its long-term presence on the orthopedic professional journal landscape.



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