

AAFP and JFP: A New Collaboration

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This issue of *The Journal of Family Practice* (JFP) represents a milestone in the continuing and increasing commitment of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) to the fields of publication and research within the specialty of family practice. With this issue, the AAFP officially recognizes the excellence of *The Journal of Family Practice* by extending to it the Academy's endorsement.

This AAFP endorsement is not simply a "blessing." As of January 1991, the American Academy of Family Physicians and *The Journal of Family Practice* enter into a collaborative relationship that will be mutually beneficial and that will strengthen family practice research and publication in the present and for the future. Initially, the AAFP will be represented on JFP's editorial board by the editors of the AAFP's two journals, *American Family Physician* and the *Family Practice Research Journal*. The editor of *The Journal of Family Practice* will also sit on the editorial advisory boards of *American Family Physician* and *Family Practice Research Journal*.

Why should the AAFP, which has a long history of publishing the largest medical specialty journal in family practice and which recently has acquired a research-based journal (*Family Practice Research Journal*), want to become closely involved with *The Journal of Family Practice* as well? A major reason has been articulated by Clayton Raker Hasser, publisher of *American Family Physician*: "The Academy is strengthening its role by moving further into academic publishing, providing its membership with complementary journals—the best in clinical research and practice."

In recent years, the AAFP has looked for ways to strengthen its research presence and to further develop a research base for academic family physicians and practicing family physicians. The collaboration between the

AAFP and JFP is an example of this effort. Another example is the reinvigorated grants program for family practice research through a cooperative effort between the AAFP and the AAFP Foundation. The AAFP Research Committee has developed multiple means by which to support research in our specialty, and the Residency Assistance Program has developed a consultative process for family practice residencies interested in increasing their research capabilities. In the year since the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (an agency within the US Public Health Service) has been in existence, the AAFP has maintained close contact with the agency and has participated in many activities and forums in an effort to increase the level of involvement of family practice in medical research in this country. Also, family practice research has been emphasized in the AAFP program *Family Practice Update* on Lifetime Medical Television.

Under the editorial leadership of Dr Jay Siwek, *American Family Physician* is expected to remain the premier family practice publication for the continuing medical education needs of its 140,000 readers. Dr Leif Solberg, editor of the *Family Practice Research Journal*, will continue to guide that quarterly AAFP journal in its mission to publish original research by office-based family physicians who do not have substantial previous experience in publishing their research findings.

Although a close working relationship is established at this time between the AAFP and *The Journal of Family Practice*, JFP remains an independent publication. Recognizing JFP's historic and future importance to the specialty, the Academy seeks through its endorsement to support the "source of original work in the specialty."

Since the editorship of *The Journal of Family Practice* changes with this issue, it is imperative that Dr John Geyman, founding editor of the journal, be saluted. His vision and talent have served JFP, the specialty of family practice, and all of medicine extremely well. Also, with

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this issue, we congratulate the new editor, Dr Paul Fischer, former chair of the AAFP Committee on Research, whose energy, talent, and grasp of the broad issues facing our specialty will carry *JFP* into the future.

The American Academy of Family Physicians is ex-

cited and enthusiastic about its expanded presence, identity, and influence in the field of family practice publishing through its endorsement of *The Journal of Family Practice*. This association will be good for family physicians and will promote a positive future for our discipline.