Editorial: Changing of the Guard

Twenty-five years ago, Epidemiologic Reviews launched its first volume with Philip Sartwell as its editor-in-chief. Neal Nathanson joined Sartwell in 1980 and continued with the Reviews until 1985, when Moyes Szklo took the helm for the next 4 years. In 1989 and for the subsequent 15 years, Haroutune Armenian provided continuous stewardship. For many of these years, Leon Gordis and Jon Samet have provided substantive and strategic guidance to the Reviews and its editors. Many others have contributed in different ways: A score of outstanding epidemiologists have participated on the editorial board, and a large number of reviewers have written careful critiques of submitted manuscripts. Last, but by no means least, are the authors, without whom there would not have been a publication in the first place.

We thank all those people for their dedication and contributions to the advancement of epidemiology in all its facets. We offer special thanks to Haroutune Armenian, who, during his long tenure, developed guidelines for authors to write better papers and for reviewers to evaluate them critically. As one of his many innovations, Armenian started a thematic issue that alternated with a methodological issue in any given year. Many of these publications are now classic references used widely by epidemiologists.

A thematic issue, published annually, has now become the norm. This issue is devoted to social epidemiology and covers an array of fascinating topics such as the social epidemiology of mental disorders, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, and substance use, as well as reviews on issues and consequences of inequality, social position, ecologic factors, and life-course exposure. An integrative overview piece of the contents of this issue is offered by Lisa Berkman. The 2005 thematic issue will address the epidemiology of disasters. Your ideas for the 2006 issue are welcome.

Finally, profound thanks are due to the many people in the publication office whose behind-the-scenes work makes this publication possible. Let me say that I am privileged and honored to have been tapped by Al Sommer and Jon Samet to serve as editor-in-chief of this venerable publication.

Michel A. Ibrahim