

Looking back and looking forward

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The ancient Greeks had the God Janus who looks back into the past and forward into the future. It is fitting that at this time, the 25th anniversary of the CJRM, 100 issues, and my 13th year as scientific editor, that we reflect on where we have been and where we are going.

John Wootton, our first scientific editor, had the idea to found a medical journal about and for rural medicine. It certainly was an audacious idea in 1994. Rural medicine ... is there such a thing? If there is, are its themes, ideas and concerns not covered in other journals such as the CFP and CMAJ? Can such a Journal find an audience?

Clearly you, dear readers, have answered. We are different and not as lesser representations of our urban-based journals. A rural academic voice is no longer an oxymoron. The CJRM is now (gasp) the established go-to place to publish rurally relevant scholarship.

Into the future, I think we will continue to hold on to that brass ring.

Some things will change (after all, we went virtual in 2010 to become more accessible). Other things grounded in our rural values and perspectives will not. We will continue to encourage new authors (it is a conscious decision that we do not charge for reviewing manuscripts). We will continue to offer our content free of charge.

What we will publish will come from the community. Your interests and your passions will be found in our pages. If it were not for authors having something to say to rural doctors, and in turn the interest in the general community to read about issues relevant to them, we would not exist.

Our pages are for you, both to read and to write. We do not necessarily need a double-blinded study to publish your articles. There are easy entry points such as an opinion piece for our Podium series or writing up a procedure for the Occasional series.

From the Editorial Board, thanks for your on-going support.

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