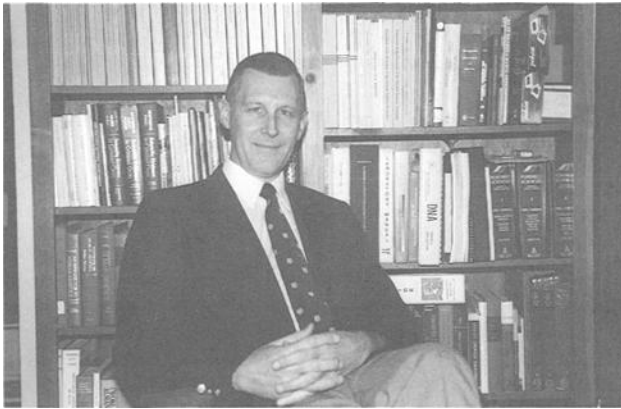


Editorial



Journal of Forensic Sciences editor, R. E. Gaensslen, Ph.D.

Farewell, Dr. Dominguez

Rarely in a career does one have the opportunity to applaud the efforts and accomplishments of anyone so deserving of accolade and appreciation as my predecessor. In April of 1992, Dr. Abel Dominguez turned over the reins of this journal. He was Editor for 18 years, and Associate Editor for two years before that. The readership and the entire membership of the Academy are enormously indebted to him for his outstanding and extraordinarily long service for our profession. Under his quiet but efficient care, the journal has grown about four-fold since the early 1970s. We have published close to 1800 pages in 1992. At the same time, the high quality of published work has been consistently maintained. Submissions to the journal are at an all-time high, and the international character of the journal continues to grow.

As many of you know and can attest, no tribute to the Dominguez years would be complete without recognizing the extraordinary efforts of Abel's wife, Doris. For twenty years, she has shared the burden, taking meticulous care of the myriad details involved in day to day operations, and without ever losing her cheerful demeanor.

It may be of interest to readers to note here the succession of editors of this journal. I am indebted to Brenda Papke and staff at AAFS for unearthing this information from older files and documents. Dr. Samuel A. Levinson, who died in 1976, was Editor from 1956 to 1965. He was succeeded by Dr. Morton F. Mason (1902–1985) who served from 1965 to 1972. Dr. Mason was succeeded by Dr. Charles J. Stahl who served from 1973 to 1974, and continued until this year to be an Associate Editor and active member of the Editorial Board. He was succeeded by Dr. Dominguez who served from 1974 to 1992.

I share Abel Dominguez's view and philosophy of the journal. It is a significant journal of record for the forensic sciences. It exists to afford qualified forensic scientists (and other scientists whose work is important to us) an opportunity to disseminate the results of their research and observations to the readership and to the scientific community at large. At the same time, it is essential that high quality, thoroughness and accuracy be maintained in the published work.

Members of the Editorial Board, working along with a significant and growing number of guest reviewers, bear the lion's share of responsibility for the journal's peer review

system, and thus for its quality assurance. Devoting countless thousands of hours to this enterprise every year, their largely unclaimed work is principally responsible for our success and continued growth.

Readers and contributors can look forward to a few changes in the journal. For some time, I have thought that certain of the journal's style requirements should be changed, so as to be more similar to those of other mainstream biomedical and chemical journals. Working with our publisher, we intend to bring about these changes shortly, and to promulgate updated style requirements. We will also introduce and begin accepting a new category of submission, "Brief Communications." This category is designed for reporting short but self-contained observations and results that can be rendered in about two printed pages with no more than one or two illustrations. Brief Communications will be shorter than a typical Technical Note, but will avoid using Letters to the Editor as a means of presenting experimental data in a brief format.

Readers will perhaps be happy to learn too that the appearance of Editorials will continue to be relatively rare. For me, as it was for Abel Dominguez, the measure of success lies in the regular arrival of interesting, informative and quality issues of the journal in your mailboxes for the months and years to come. As my stewardship begins, I do recognize the quality of service you have come to take for granted under my predecessor's leadership, and give you my assurances that my effort will be directed toward maintaining it.

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