

Editorial

40th Anniversary Volume

1995 is the 40th year of continuous publication of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. From a comparatively modest beginning, we have grown steadily to our present size and stature, and can look back with pride, as well as forward with optimism and enthusiasm.

The Academy and our readership are indebted to all the authors and contributors, previous Editors, editorial board members, and guest reviewers, who have collectively participated in the journal's success.

JFS was published in four issues per year from its inception through 1986. Since 1987, it has been published in six issues per year. A *Comprehensive Index* for JFS covering 1972–1986 was published a few years ago by ASTM, and a follow-up for the years 1987–1993 was recently published.

We have been contemplating a few changes in the journal's format for some time, and this anniversary year seemed an appropriate time to implement them. The larger size and accompanying two-column format will bring us more closely into synchrony with other scientific journals. It will also permit more efficient use of space in the placement of figures and tables, and the use of a better quality paper for improved art reproduction.

We have also been planning some changes in reference citation format to bring us into closer concordance with other mainstream scientific journals. These changes will be incorporated into the

Instructions for Authors section of the publication as soon as all the details have been settled.

As the "information revolution" continues at a relentless pace, we are thinking about some of the issues that must be faced as more and more information is exchanged and conveyed electronically, rather than as print on paper. ASTM is well along in its planning for the use of disk files to expedite publication.

In addition, efforts are underway to decrease the lag time between receipt of items for publication and their actual appearance in print. Looking down the road only a little farther, we all must be thinking about the prospect of nearly paperless publication modalities. Those of you who are AAFS members recently received (or soon will) a copy of the strategic plan. Electronic communication and information exchange was one of the four critical areas discussed, and there may shortly be formed an implementation committee to flesh out specific plans for future action. A thoughtful letter to the editor on this subject from Ronald L. Moore was published in the September, 1994, issue.

There is every reason to look back with pride on our 40 year history. At the same time, we must maintain our commitment to a high quality journal, in whatever form and format it may take in the coming years.

R. E. Gaensslen, Ph.D.
Editor