

Editorial

Tributes to retiring Editor-in-Chief of Metabolism, James B. Field

Summer 2010 marks the end of an era: the retirement after 40 years of Editor-in-Chief Dr James B. Field. This service surely ranks as one of the longest and most steadfast of any medical journal editor; and as the latest in a long line of his publishers, I would like to thank him for his commitment to *Metabolism*, its authors, and its readers. *Sic transit gloria mundi*. We plan soon to announce his successor.

Andrew Miller
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I first met Jim when I went to the National Institutes of Health as a postdoctoral fellow in 1961 and was impressed with his expertise and research commitment to the field of thyroid physiology. Jim left the next year for the University of Pittsburgh; and in 1965, I left for Brown University. In 1970, Jim appointed me as an associate editor of *Metabolism*; and I, along with George Bray, Bernard Davis, Andrew Frantz, Glenn Mortimore, and Maria New, have served on the editorial board since that time.

I enjoyed my interactions with Jim who always managed to deal fairly and rigorously with the manuscripts submitted to *Metabolism*. Few individuals have served with such distinction for such a long time, and I feel honored to have had the opportunity to interact with such a wonderful scientist/physician as the editor of *Metabolism*. It is appropriate that Elsevier is providing this tribute to a man who will turn 84 this year and served with such distinction for 40 years as the Editor-in-Chief of *Metabolism*.

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It was with great enthusiasm that I received James Field's letter in 1967 asking me to join the Editorial Board of *Metabolism*. I was a young clinical investigator, and he was already a highly respected senior investigator. To be asked to serve this way has always been a high point for me, and I want to thank Dr Field for this privilege and for his leadership of the journal over all these many years.

When Dr Field started as Editor-in-Chief, we still had regular spring meetings in Atlantic City. This was a wonderful venue for young investigators from many fields to get together along the board walk. The Editorial Board breakfasts that he used to host were an important way to motivate us to get our reviews in on time.



Atlantic City boardwalk, 1960s.

Dr Field and I have lived through the fourth revolution in communication. Speech some 50 000 years ago was in my mind the first, written language the second, printing with movable type the third revolution in communication, and the introduction of the Internet and computers the fourth. This has certainly changed our lives, including editing of papers. They used to come in envelopes with forms to be filled out on a typewriter using carbon paper. Now, like this letter, it is done with a computer and much more efficiently—well maybe. Perhaps we pine for some of the things from the olden days. Certainly, the higher speed of communication today has its strengths, as well as its weaknesses.

It will be hard to find someone with Dr Field's talents to become editor of *Metabolism*, and those of us who have published there time and time again will miss his steady hand on the helm. I wish him all the best as he retires from Editor-in-Chief of *Metabolism* and thank him for all he has done to make it such a fine journal and give those of us who worked with him such a great experience.

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