



Reflections on *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*: 8 years of editorship

It has been nearly 8 years since our team assumed responsibility for the editorship of *GIE*, and it is now our turn to pass the torch to a new team. As I reflect on the past 8 years, I feel a sense of pride, accomplishment, and most importantly stewardship. As I think about where *GIE* was 8 years ago and where it is now, I am very pleased to say that we took over a journal in a position of strength and pass the journal on in an even greater position of strength. We are very indebted to the many previous editors of the journal, in particular Drs Glenn Eisen, George Triadafilopoulos, Mike Sivak, and Charlie Lightdale. All 4 of these editors provided highly valuable advice and guidance on how we can continue to build the journal.

Our vision 8 years ago, and the one that continues today, was to make *GIE* the premier source of information on the science and practice of endoscopy worldwide. We wanted to deliver impactful scientific articles, editorials, case reports, and other educational material, so that we can improve the care of patients who seek our services. We sought to select scientific manuscripts and other reviews that met 3 criteria: relevancy to physicians who practice endoscopy, novel information, and for original scientific articles, highly rigorous design and reporting. A second major goal was to ensure the highest ethical standards for publishing including full disclosure of conflicts of interest and avoiding plagiarism. Third, we wanted to deliver this content to all the world. Although the journal is based with the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, our audience is truly global. Did we achieve that vision? I can confidently say that we did. *GIE* remains the highest ranked and largest peer-reviewed scientific publication in the field of endoscopy by nearly all measures. Our editorial team reviewed more than 2000 manuscripts yearly and met every month to decide which ones should be published; we always applied those 3 criteria: relevance, rigor, and novelty. We constantly checked conflict of interest statements and plagiarism using newly developed tools to detect such unfavorable occurrences. We significantly expanded our reach such that the United States is now no longer the majority source of our articles, with extensive growth throughout the world, particularly in

Europe and Asia. Finally, we launched 2 new journals, *VideoGIE* and *iGIE* to expand our scope.

What has 8 years of serving as the Editor-in-Chief meant to me personally? This was the most rewarding nonclinical role I have ever served in my career. While I have been honored to serve on many different societal committees and in institutional roles, shaping the scientific landscape of gastrointestinal endoscopy is where our team made its greatest impact. We saw major developments in the fields of third-space endoscopy, lumen-apposing metal stents, artificial intelligence, and endoscope-associated infection prevention. Most notably, we went through the pandemic of COVID-19 and developed ultrarapid systems to deliver relevant tools to endoscopy practices in the middle of this unprecedented worldwide event. It was also personally very gratifying to develop both deep collaborations and friendships with our team members on the Editorial Board, at the ASGE, and throughout the world.

The production of a peer-reviewed scientific journal is a massive effort that requires thousands of individuals. Most importantly, I would like to thank our Senior Managing Editors, Deborah Bowman and Stephanie Kinnan, and our liaison to the ASGE, Ed Dellert, for their many years of partnership, advice, and guidance. I would like to thank our large team of Associate Editors who reviewed more than 15,000 manuscripts over the past 8 years and our Editorial Review Board, International Editorial Board, and ASGE Editorial Board, who all gave us sage advice on guiding the journal. The hardest work of the journal is peer review. We are very fortunate to have more than 1000 peer reviewers who spent their time reading and revising manuscripts. I want to thank our authors who submitted these thousands of manuscripts whose blood, sweat, and tears developed these scientific studies and who understand the well-known challenges of publishing high-quality scientific papers. We are only able to accept a small proportion of the manuscripts submitted, but our authors were patient with us, even when we could not accept their papers. Many gave us feedback on how we could improve the process of peer review, which we took to heart and made important changes to improve review quality, speed up the process of publication, and provide support, with things like graphical abstracts, podcasts, author interviews, and editorials to enhance the great work done by the authors. I want to thank our publisher Elsevier, who has been a valuable partner in converting our accepted

manuscripts into a true journal. Finally, I wish to thank the ASGE for supporting our team. This is truly the society's journal.

What's next for *GIE*? For any of us who invest a considerable effort into a project, we dearly want that project to continue its success. In that regard, I am thrilled that Dr Douglas Adler and his new team of Associate Editors will assume responsibility for the journal in 2023. Dr Adler has been an Associate Editor through 2 full terms of the journal and has been a Senior Associate Editor in recent years. No one is more qualified to continue the success of *GIE*.

I continue to tell our GI fellows and young physicians that the most rewarding aspect of being a physician-scientist is the ability not just to ask questions but to know how to answer them. That is the scientific process. That is how we move forward. That is how we deliver the best possible care of our patients. I sincerely thank you all for entrusting me and our entire team to make *GIE* the best it can be.

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