A Journal for the Bronx

The present volume marks the appearance of a new publication at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The aim of The EINSTEIN QUARTERLY Journal of Biology and Medicine is two-fold. In the first place, the QUARTERLY will provide a forum for members of the local academic community to share the fruits of their investigations and professional activities with each other. Secondly, it will provide opportunity and encouragement for students, fellows, and house officers to become involved in aspects of biology and medicine which might otherwise be unavailable to them, including the researching, writing, and editing of articles for formal publication.

The EINSTEIN QUARTERLY Journal of Biology and Medicine is a product of the Bronx. As such, it is designed to reflect the unique spirit of inquiry and discovery which is characteristic of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and its affiliated institutions. That spirit encourages a degree of professional collaboration and open discourse unequalled in most other academic institutions. The interaction among colleagues at different levels and with widely varying interests fosters an unusually enjoyable and productive intellectual environment. On this background, the EINSTEIN QUARTERLY is a vehicle for professional communication with our friends and colleagues of diverse academic interests. It is therefore a journal of "general" medicine and biology. As compared with specialized professional publications, articles in the QUARTERLY are more likely to provide an overview of the author's contribution. Those which present new data will do so in the setting of a brief review so as to be comprehensible to scientists and clinicians not directly familiar with the subject area discussed. Thus, contributions on almost all subjects are fair game; our broad definition of "biology and medicine" includes virtually all types of scholarly activity undertaken by members of this community.

Formal articles will be accepted from any present or past member of the Einstein community. Articles will be reviewed by professional colleagues familiar with the subject presented and will be accepted for publication based on their scientific merit and interest. Because of the quasi-review nature of the QUARTERLY and its special audience, we do not require that all data presented be previously unpublished. Nonetheless, acceptibility will obviously be dependent in part on the timeliness and novelty of the information presented.

In addition to research articles, the QUARTERLY publishes contributions in a less structured format, including editorials, general commentary, notices, and reviews of selected books, scientific meetings, etc. We are particularly interested in encouraging letters to the editor as a more informal means of discussion of contemporary scientific and social issues. The Letters sections of many journals provide a significant portion of their interesting contents. We would expect the same to be true of the QUARTERLY, given the intensity and diversity of thought within this community.

The EINSTEIN QUARTERLY is a journal which was initially conceived by medical and graduate students. As it has developed, therefore, we have assigned particular importance to the role played by our colleagues still in formal training. Borrowing from the model used by review journals at many law schools, we intend that the majority of articles be written by students, house officers, and post-doctoral and clinical fellows. The style of these articles obviously will vary depending on the subject and the interests and experience of the authors. This can be seen in the variety of contributions to the present issue. However, in most cases, guidance from a supervisory or collaborating faculty member (who would likely be a co-author) is appropriate. By the presence of the QUARTERLY, we would hope to increase the number of tutorial relationships between faculty and junior members of the community.

Similar considerations have contributed to the structure and organization of the QUARTERLY itself. The Editor of the journal is a student at Einstein who works closely with a faculty member serving as Chairman of the Editorial Board. (The post-graduate status of the present Editor is a convenience for this introductory issue alone.) The Board is composed of approximately equal numbers of students (including house officers and fellows) and faculty who share editorial responsibility for the journal. Each article submitted to the QUARTERLY is assigned to a student and a faculty member who work together to review the article. They may decide to refer the article to outside reviewers as appropriate. They then share responsibility for editing the article for final publication. This model of student-faculty pairing ideally will extend to all phases of the QUARTERLY's preparation. We hope that through this process, tutorial relationships will develop within the staff of the QUARTERLY itself, extending the educational opportunities provided by the journal.

With this issue, we have taken only the first step toward the creation of an exciting and valuable publication. Prediction of the ultimate fate of this effort would be impossible. However, born of the extraordinary academic climate at Einstein, The EINSTEIN QUARTERLY Journal of Biology and Medicine hopes to become a significant contributor to that environment.

Lee Michael Kaplan
Editor