



## Dear Colleague:

THIS MONTH WE ARE AGAIN SERVING up a potpourri of goodies to tempt the internist. We have articles on prevention, treatment, ethics, and more, all presented in what we hope is the *Journal's* readable style.

### ■ Preventing heart disease in women (page 493)

Because atherosclerosis is preventable in women, it is important for the physician to pay attention to important lifestyle issues. Drs. Thacker and Saadi discuss the roles of education and new medications to treat diabetes and hyperlipidemia.

### ■ Changes in graduate medical education (page 457)

Dr. Michota recounts the woes of post-graduate medical training, familiar to all of us, though romanticized in memory to those of us who are older. His message is that things were tough all over, and they still are.

### ■ Decisional capacity and informed consent (page 461)

Issues surrounding informed consent continue to challenge us in our everyday practice of medicine. Ethicist Dr. George Agich reviews and discusses some of these and presents some practical guidelines for evaluating decisional capacity.

### ■ Chemotherapy and reproduction (page 465)

Chemotherapeutic drugs act at the nuclear level and have great capacity to do mischief during cell division. Dr. Markman provides a brief review of the hazards of childhood chemotherapy as it affects subsequent reproduction.

### ■ Hallux valgus and bunions (page 469)

If your feet hurt, it's hard to think about anything else. Drs. Donley, Tisdell, Sferra, and Hall discuss the ins and outs of one of the most common causes of painful feet, ie, bunions, emphasizing a conservative approach to treatment. Included with this article are radiographs and full-color illustrations that describe this condition and its treatment.

### ■ Jehovah's Witnesses and blood transfusions (page 475)

Patient's who are Jehovah's Witnesses have special needs when receiving medical care related to religious objections to blood transfusions. Dr. Smith reviews ethical considerations related to this issue, particularly arising from care of children and incompetent patients.

### ■ Travel medicine (page 483)

Are you or a patient going somewhere exotic? Prudence dictates that you take a look at Dr. Mawhorter's summary of how to protect against the local ills so everyone can enjoy their trip and return intact. The article includes recipes that travelers suffering from diarrhea can use for rehydration.

As always we are interested what you think of the *Journal*, and your ideas for future topics. *Bon appetit.*

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