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Editors' View

Mot de la rédaction

SURGICAL BIOLOGY FOR THE CLINICIAN

The February 1997 Editors' View, written by my Coeditor Dr. Meakins, listed a number of initiatives that we are planning in order to improve the Journal, both in content and relevance. Several new features were mentioned, including improved self-assessment sections, the surgical images section and, a new initiative for us, a "residents' corner" section. A further new feature that I believe is of great significance is the institution in this issue (pages 169 to 174) of a regular section on surgical biology for the clinician.

As practising surgeons we are all aware that our efforts to have a positive influence on the outcome of illness or injury depend entirely on the biologic response of our patients to their illness or injury and our intervention. Biology in its broadest definition includes all responses of the organism to its environment; surgical biology narrows this focus to problems of particular interest to surgeons and surgical patients. Such fundamental processes as hemostasis, wound healing and the catabolic response to injury are better understood today because of our increasing understanding of biology. As the specialty of surgery branches out into illness and injury once considered untreatable, the appropriate intervention by surgeons and the anticipated response by the patient to surgical intervention will be predicted by basic biologic processes. A thorough understanding of the biologic principles that govern and limit our therapeutic interventions is essential for us to remain current in surgical thinking. It is therefore of tremendous importance to our readers that this regular feature on surgical biology comes to the Journal.

Dr. Meakins and I are grateful to

Dr. Ori D. Rotstein for taking charge of the section on surgical biology for the clinician, and we look forward to continued contributions from him and his colleagues. Although it should be obvious to our readers, I would add that any basic science topic of interest to surgeons is of interest to the Editors of the *Canadian Journal of Surgery*, and we invite your submissions.

BIOLOGIE CHIRURGICALE POUR LE CLINICIEN

Dans son Mot de la rédaction de février 1997, mon corédacteur, le Dr Meakins, a énuméré des initiatives que nous envisageons pour améliorer à la fois le contenu du Journal et sa pertinence. On a mentionné plusieurs chroniques nouvelles, y compris des chroniques améliorées sur l'auto-évaluation, la chronique sur l'Imagerie chirurgicale et, ce qui est nouveau pour nous, une «Chronique des résidents». Une autre caractéristique nouvelle que je trouve très importante, c'est le lancement, dans ce numéro (pages 169 à 174), d'une chronique régulière sur la biologie chirurgicale pour le clinicien.

Comme chirurgiens, nous savons tous que les efforts que nous déployons pour avoir un effet positif sur le résultat de maladies ou de traumatismes dépendent entièrement de la réaction biologique de nos patients à leur maladie ou traumatisme et de notre intervention. Dans son sens le plus large, la biologie comprend toutes les réactions de l'organisme à son environnement. La biologie chirurgicale ramène cette définition aux problèmes d'intérêt particulier pour les chirurgiens et les patients en chirurgie. Nous comprenons mieux