Editorial

This issue of the Journal contains the proceedings of the 102nd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Insurance Medicine (once the Association of Life Insurance Medical Directors of America). From its founding in 1889 this organization has sponsored annual meetings (except for two years in the 1940’s), primarily consisting of the presentation of scientific papers. A hardbound publication of the Transactions of these meetings first appeared early this century, and that publication also became an annual offering by which the matters discussed at the meetings could be shared with the entire membership and could be preserved for future reference. Early issues contained some of the first descriptions of the "numerical rating" system by which insurance could be tailored to fit applicants presenting with extra mortality risk factors of a physical or personal nature. Other articles pertained to the current state of medical knowledge concerning the conditions detected by medical directors during their physical examination of applicants for insurance — which, incidentally, was a major part of the work of medical directors during the early years of this association. The record describes a scientific paper presented at the very first annual meeting, now over a century ago, detailing the injurious effect upon the human heart which drinking excessive quantities of beer was observed to produce. In addition to the activities of the annual meeting, the Transactions have contained listings of all the officers of the organization from 1889 onward, as well as listing the attenders and guests at the meeting.

Upon the recommendation of the editor of the Transactions and the approval of the Executive Council of AAIM, the activities of the annual meeting will now appear in the pages of the Journal of Insurance Medicine. In recent years the Transactions have arrived to members and attenders at about this time of year, and this issue of JIM carries the content of the papers presented at the meeting in Toronto last October. This was a unique meeting, serving as a conjoint annual meeting of AAIM and as the 18th annual meeting of The Canadian Life Insurance Medical Officers Association. The papers published here are our best effort to faithfully represent what was said there, which necessarily will not be always complete or entirely accurate. The Transactions have not typically included graphics except for an occasional case, but we have attempted to recreate visuals here for each paper for which some form of the data was provided in hardcopy. We have not included the historical listings of past officers, and it would be this editor’s hope that the information contained in those lists could be periodically updated and published for those with special interest in the historical aspects of the organization, but perhaps not yearly.

The 1994 meeting of the CLIMOA took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 1-3, and the 103rd AAIM will be hosted in Chicago, September 25-28, by President Bill Baker. At about that time the "new" editor of this journal, Dr. W. John Elder, will be publishing Volume 26, no. 3, and continuing the tradition of care with which he has crafted this periodical into a vehicle worthy to carry the historically significant transactions of our annual meeting.

As you receive this issue of JIM, the editor is in Ruili and Kunming, China, teaching. The past month has included teaching seminars in Philippines, Vietnam, and now China, next in Shanghai. From there it will be back to Philippines, possibly to Cambodia, then home in time for the AAIM meeting in Chicago. See you there!

Roger H. Butz, MD
Editor