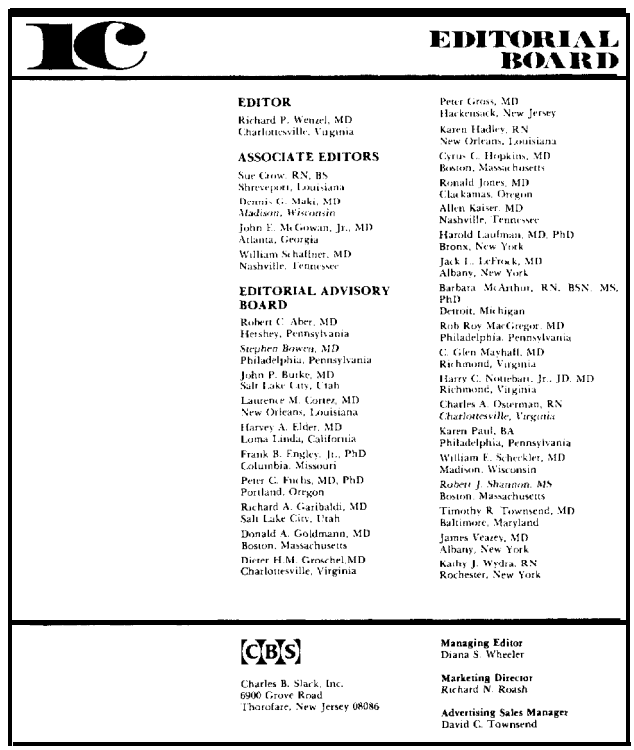
Editorial

Our Journal -- A New Era

Richard P. Wenzel, MD, MSc

The Roman deity, Janus, guardian of the gates of heaven, presided over the entrance upon or beginning of all things. In that special duty, he is portrayed with one face on the front and another on the back of his head, representing simultaneous vigils over past and future events. In 1980, in the month dedicated to the memory of Janus, my close friend and colleague Bill Schaffner and I introduced a new scientific journal that would focus on "hospital epidemiology and all aspects of infection control."[1] In that quest we were ably assisted by Sue Crow, Dennis Maki, John McGowan, and a talented editorial advisory board (Figure). In the past decade those of us explorers have been amply rewarded for our efforts: *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* is now the shining jewel in the field and has just completed its best year since the original issue.

In January of 1993, we enter a new year and a new era for our Journal as I pass responsibilities on to my successor as editor, Mike Decker. I look forward to assisting him in the transition and to following the progress of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*. As an insatiable explorer, I seek novel adventures ahead with the launching of a sister journal dedicated to its namesake, *Clinical Performance and Quality Health Care*. My new fellow travelers and I are mindful of the admonitions given to truly great Columbian adventurers seeking a new land in the late 15th century: it is possible that the world is flat and that continued pursuit into the unknown will lead to the edge and a precipitous fall. To help us, however, our new ship's flag will carry the image of Janus, and our compass will be the lessons learned with *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*.



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FIGURE. Original masthead of *Infection Control.*

It has been a special honor as editor of a journal that has met, and perhaps exceeded the goals outlined in 1980. I have worked with a wonderful group of talented and dedicated healthcare advocates. What I say on these pages in thanks to my colleagues on the

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Wenzel RP. Our journal-a new era. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol. 1993;14:12-13.

https://doi.org/10.1086/646622 Published online by Cambridge University Press

editorial board will not be remembered, but the fruits of their work will live on as the legacy of an important scientific journal dedicated to improving the health of hospitalized patients.

As we look ahead, I sense that the future is bright, the winds of change favorable, and the adventures before us exciting. Aided by the maps we have charted, Mike Decker should not be constrained by these charts but remain free to take a new course where he sees fit. This, in fact, is the prescription for success and I wish him and the new editorial team of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* the best.

REFERENCE

1. Wenzel RP, Schaffner WA. Of Roman gods and a new journal. *Infect Control*. 1980;1:13.

https://doi.org/10.1086/646622 Published online by Cambridge University Press