Praise the Bridge That Carried You Over

In this issue, we publish the names of our reviewers as a thank you. This is the first time we’ve done that as a journal, and it is an immense pleasure to do so. This is the beginning of the third year of Hospital Pediatrics. Wow! As some of you will recall, we launched with a single inaugural issue in July 2011 and then published quarterly in 2012. And what a year 2012 was for this journal. We doubled the number of planned issues, and then we doubled the amount of original research published in each issue. Plus, we’ve continued to expand our evidence synthesis, commentary, and essays. We have >2000 subscribers and are in 266 libraries and institutions. We have a state-of-the-art Web site, and our design team won an award for the print version of the journal. Seriously, wow!

If you had told me 2 years ago that this was where we’d be today, it is likely I would have written you off as a bit of a Pollyanna. Certainly, the sponsorship of the American Academy of Pediatrics has been a huge factor in our success. I am truly grateful to our parent organization for their support and to Jen Daru for her pioneering, original vision. However, I will be the first to tell you that you cannot publish a journal without content. Honestly, I wasn’t at all sure which way things would go at the beginning. But there were just too many optimists out there practicing pediatric hospital medicine; too many people who believed in the discipline and had something to contribute in defining it. In short, you’ve been busy.

I am thrilled with Hospital Pediatrics to date; even more importantly, however, I am looking forward to our growth as a discipline and to what we’ll publish in the future. Great things are coming, including more and more clinically relevant research intended to help us take better care of hospitalized children. As physicians, we all wear multiple hats (teacher or administrator, among others) but the clinical encounter remains at the heart of what we do. Clinical relevance is what we are striving to achieve as the core of our discipline’s journal.

The people who write and review for a journal are the journal. As an editor, I spend a lot of time thinking about the reader. I hope our journal speaks to our readers, but I know it speaks for our authors and our reviewers. And I think what it has to say is just awesome. Yes, I know that’s an unpopular word; overused, clichéd, inexpressive. Maybe I use it because I can’t quite shake off the 1980s, but maybe, just maybe, I sometimes truly feel awe at how lucky we are to have this opportunity. As we mature as a specialty, perhaps we should strive for less obviously colloquial, felicitous expressions. All I really wanted to say was: thank you for your contribution to the success of this journal, be you author, reviewer, reader, or any combination of the 3…oh yeah, and, you seriously rock!