

Learning from the past and looking to the future

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know no way of judging of the future but by the past.

Patrick Henry
1775

The continued memory of the national tragedy that occurred several months ago serves as a reminder that things we hold so dear, such as the roots of freedom, family, and friends, should never be forgotten or taken for granted. The field of allergy is also rich in historical experiences and anchorages, some of which have recently been enshrined in an AAAAI Archive at the Golda Meir Library in Milwaukee. To commemorate this new archive, the JACI is pleased to establish a new series entitled "The Allergy Archives: Pioneers and Milestones," which will feature pivotal reports and pioneers in our field. This special series unfolds from the enthusiasm and efforts of Drs Murray Dworetzky and Sheldon Cohen. It will take us to unique monuments of allergy, the AAAAI, and The JACI. The feature will appear 4 times a year, and in this issue, the first of this series (p 179) presents a review by Peter Gergen of the Rackemann and Colmes article "Studies in Asthma" (*Journal of Allergy*, 1929), a charmingly written profile of Dr Frances Rackemann by Sheldon Cohen, and an essay by AAAAI archivist Tim Erickson on the role and value of archives in preserving artifacts and documents related to our history. "The Allergy Archives" will certainly and gently remind us that our early history—sometimes eclipsed by exciting new technologies and territories—is an essential and fascinating foundation to our science. As Peter Gergen concludes in his review, "it is both encouraging and humbling to realize that though much has changed over the decades, much is still the same." We find merit in reflecting on past discoveries, successes, and mistakes as another resource for furthering knowledge and innovation in the treatment of disease.

The JACI continues to lead its field in presenting the most innovative information and approaches to both the print and online formats. A major new undertaking for the Journal is our conversion of the present manuscript tracking software to a new and fully electronic Web-based database called *Editorial Manager*. This upgrade brings the JACI to the cutting edge with new levels of

service for our authors and reviewers. It offers complete capabilities for electronic submission of manuscripts and the execution of all reviewer procedures and commentary. The system "goes live" on January 2, 2002. Visit the JACI Editorial Manager Web site at www.editorialmanager.com/jaci/ and register to use the system. (Access to the site is also available through a link on the JACI electronic journal Web page, www.mosby.com/jaci/.) The JACI Editorial Office is working diligently to facilitate a smooth introduction and transition for its exclusive use by readers, authors, and reviewers.

Another online feature available at the click of a mouse is the Moderated Discussion. This is a convenient electronic forum for registering readers' thoughts about selected published articles and editorials. Each month, papers opened for comment are designated with the symbol *MD* in the margin of the issue's table of contents. Readers can log on to the JACI Web page (again, that URL is www.mosby.com/jaci/) and select the "Comments" button at the bottom of the full text article to enter remarks about the work reported. Comments that appear here will be permanently archived as part of the electronic record of the paper, and these discussions can be cited by using the Journal's citation for this paper followed by "online comments." We encourage you to join these discussion groups and give your opinion.

In September 2001, another young author was named to receive the AAAAI Award for Outstanding Research Published in the JACI by a Developing Researcher. Dr Marie-Noël Primeau of the University of Montreal School of Medicine was recognized for her article "Natural rubber pharmaceutical vial closures release latex allergens that produce skin reactions" (*J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2001;107:958-62). Formal presentation of the award will be made at the annual Business Meeting in New York in March 2002. Please see the profile of Dr Primeau's paper in this issue of the Journal (p 3A).

The Editors continue their commitment to increasing the JACI's number of citations in the published literature by pushing the competitive bar for article quality higher still. In 2000, the total number of articles cited from the JACI was 15,903, up from 15,445 in 1999. We are gratified that this measure—higher than the next 3 leading allergy-immunology journals combined—again marks the JACI as the premier source for reporting innovation and outcomes in clinical allergy and immunology research.

Simultaneously, we work to expand our worldwide

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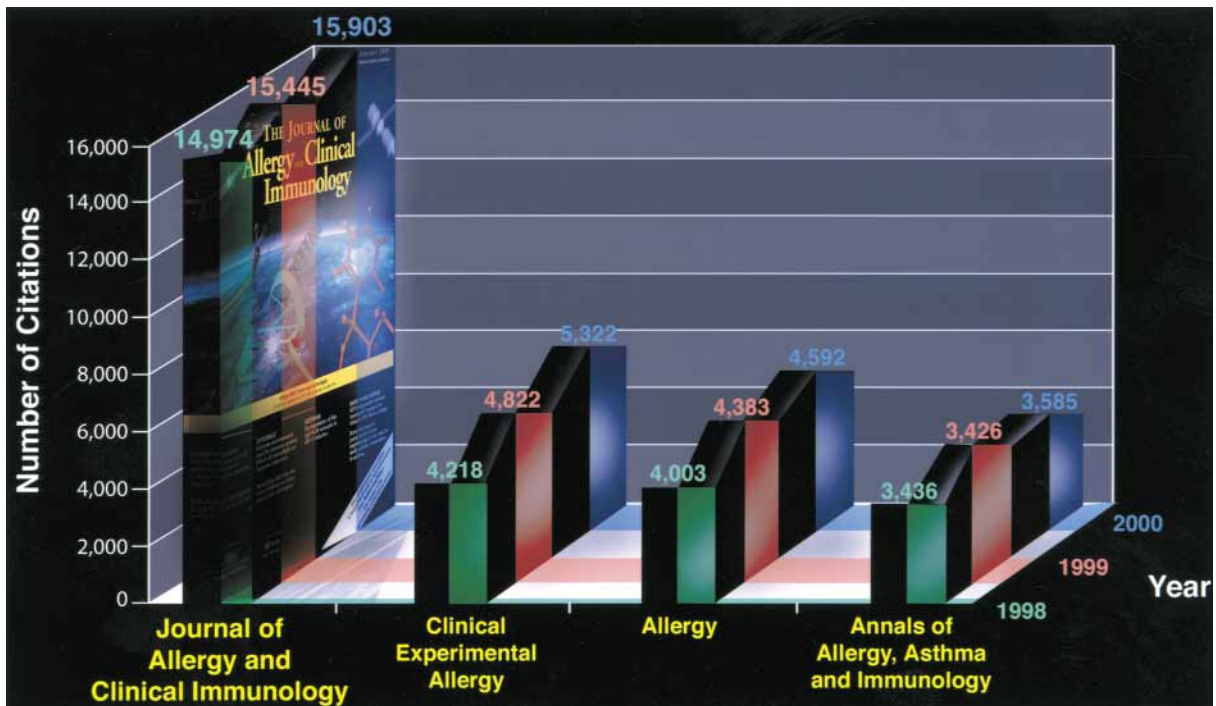


FIG 1. Numbers of total annual citations for the leading allergy journals, 1998-2000.

base of reviewers and to raise awareness and recognition of emerging authors and research groups in the global community. This too sets a tile into the mosaic of the Journal's respected reputation and citation growth.

There are some excellent innovations on the JACI Web page that merit attention. In each online article, we now have a gray menu box (next to the listing of authors) that contains links to several useful resources. You can connect directly and quickly to the PDF file, the points within the article at which specific drugs are mentioned, genetics-related information within the article, citation links (PubMed, Citation Manager, and Medlars), related articles in PubMed, and our "Discuss This Article" link,

where you can enter your online comments on articles designated in the table of contents with the symbol *MD* in an orange triangle. These new capabilities provide a great service to our readers. Going on-line with the Journal is easier and more productive than ever!

With the advent of another new year, there will be the promise of answers unfolding and the charge of new questions arising. We wish you good luck with these endeavors. We are pleased to be part of your continuing educational experience.

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