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## The Journal and Simon Dack

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It is an honor and a privilege to be the guest editor for the 25th anniversary issue of the official journal of the American College of Cardiology, which is dedicated to its first and only editor, Dr. Simon Dack.

Although 25 years is but a fleeting moment, the past quarter century has been one of remarkable progress in cardiology. In 25 years, a generation of cardiologists has developed that does not know the cardiac examination without a stethoscope with both bell and diaphragm; heart failure without diuretics; lues as the most common cause of aortic valvular disease; hospital wards full of children with acute rheumatic fever; some of the same children who later faced certain death because of bacterial endocarditis; hypertension without antihypertensive drugs; patients with congenital or acquired heart disease for whom there was no surgical therapy; a four-lead electrocardiogram; or research tools with no greater sophistication than a slide rule, Marchand calculator or smoked drum. Only 25 years ago, cardiology without echocardiography, cardiac catheterization, angiography, nuclear techniques, computer technology and multivariate analyses was state-of-the-art cardiology.

It is against this background of changes in cardiology during the past 25 years that the highly successful leadership provided by Dr. Dack can be appreciated. As the editor of a leading cardiologic journal, it was his responsibility to

cull out from the vast, rapidly expanding and changing mass of basic and clinical knowledge and technology of the past 25 years the essential information to keep physicians in step with progress and able to deliver the best cardiovascular care available. Dr. Dack's editorial style and innate ability to discern the important advances in research and clinical cardiology and bridge the two has resulted in the publication of the latest, most exciting and most useful, carefully peer reviewed information. The fact that as an editor he has succeeded beyond anticipation on this date 25 years ago is clearly attested to by the worldwide acceptance of the official journal of the American College of Cardiology.

As a token of the readership's appreciation for Dr. Dack's 25 years of dedicated service to the education of the cardiologist and to the welfare of the patient with cardiovascular disease, an attempt has been made to present, in this issue, a capsule of the progress that he has so elegantly captured, synthesized and interpreted. It is clear that a single issue of the Journal can only symbolically approach a review of 25 years of progress. To our regret, many important contributions and contributors to the remarkable progress of the past 25 years are not represented because of space and other limitations. Nevertheless, it is our hope that when our distinguished Editor reads the contributions to this anniversary issue of the official journal of the American College of Cardiology, he can reflect with satisfaction on the accomplishments of his stewardship.

Knowing Dr. Dack, we expect that he will immediately begin to educate us with the same enthusiasm he displayed 25 years ago.

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