EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy New Year!

I want to send my best wishes to all readers of *Wilderness and Environmental Medicine* for 2005 and to announce a few changes in the Editorial Board composition. At the 2004 Annual WMS meeting in Snowmass, the Editorial Board voted unanimously to institute a 5-year limit on membership to the Editorial Board (with an option to renew at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief). Our hope is to continue to inject new thoughts, energy, and enthusiasm into the Journal by periodically bringing on new members with fresh insights.

With these goals in mind, I have asked Dr Judy Klein to join the Editorial Board. Judy is an emergency physician in San Francisco, and I know her well because she trained in our Emergency Medicine residency program at Stanford. She has a genuine love for the wilderness and spends a great deal of time in it. Her passion for outdoor activities and her artistic talents have prompted me to ask her to assume leadership for the "Wilderness Essays" section of the Journal.

We have seen an increase in the number of manuscripts we are receiving on the subjects of exercise and nutrition and their effects on performance, and I consider this an excellent area in which to generate more focus as it applies to wilderness medicine. I have, therefore, asked Stacie Wing-Gaia to join the Editorial Board and serve as section editor for a new "Exercise and Nutrition" section of the Journal. Stacie is a University of California, Davis, graduate and has a master's degree in nutrition science from the University of Utah. She is currently working on her doctorate in exercise physiology also at the University of Utah. She is an avid teacher and researcher and a welcome addition to our Board.

Dr Sean Bush, whom many of you know as the star of *Venom ER* on the television channel Animal Planet, has been a member of the Editorial Board for a year now and has recently agreed to assume responsibility as section editor for our "Toxinology" section. Sean brings a wealth of experience to this position, and I am excited about his participation in this role. I must thank Mel

Otten for his past role as editor for this section since its inception. Although turning over the reins for the section, Mel is, thankfully, staying on as an Editorial Board member.

I would also like to thank the following Editorial Board members who have retired from the Board this year for their service to the Journal and to the Society: Dr Dan Danzl, Dr Stephen Hargarten, Dr Rob Roach, and Dr Michael Ward. Many different components make a medical journal successful, but its leadership in the form of its editorial board is one of the most important. Thank you, gentlemen, for your service!

In the previous issue of *Wilderness and Environmental Medicine*, we included a readership survey to help us better serve your interests. In an effort to maximize response to the survey, we entered the names of all those who sent in completed surveys into a drawing for a free 1-year membership to the Wilderness Medical Society. I want to thank all of you who took the time to complete the questionnaire and to congratulate our member winner, John N. Chatfield Jr, MD, of Colorado Springs, CO! We are still in the process of collating the data from the surveys and will report on those in the future.

I'd also like to congratulate the winners of the 2004 WEM Photo Contest. George Hertner, MD, Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the photographer for our cover "Mt. Foraker Falls." He tied for first place with Xavier Ledoux, MD, St. Martin, French West Indies, whose photo "Martinique Mountain Rescue Training Session" is featured in Wilderness Images. Greg Friese, NREMT, "Fall Portage," Plover, Wisconsin; Luanne Freer, MD, "Sunset on Nuptse," Bozeman, Montana; and Diane Noton, MD, "Perfect Water Lily," Saratoga, Wyoming, made up a 3-way tie for second place. Watch for their winning photos in upcoming issues of Volume 16 and full color images at <http://www.wemjournal.org>.

Here is wishing you all a safe, healthy, exciting 2005!

Robert Norris, MD
Editor