

Editorial: A Time of Opportunity for the *Canadian Journal on Aging*

With this issue of the *Canadian Journal on Aging*, I begin my second year as Editor-in-Chief. This is the first time, however, that I have spoken directly to readers through an editorial. Since the *Journal* has had a large backlog of manuscripts awaiting publication, I have, until now, chosen to include an extra article in several issues rather than use up scarce pages for purposes of an editorial. New developments, however, have dramatically altered the *Journal's* situation. *CJA* is now entering an exciting time of unprecedented opportunity, made possible by the renewed support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and by a new grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Aging.

First, I am very pleased to report that the *Journal's* application to the SSHRC's Aid to Research and Transfer Journals competition was successful. Funding was granted for another three-year period, beginning in April, 2002. We are very grateful to SSHRC for their continuing support. The support of SSHRC since the *Journal* was founded, along with the base funding from the Canadian Association on Gerontology, has enabled the *Journal* to grow into a highly respected, scholarly, interdisciplinary journal.

Second, following an application to the CIHR's Institute of Aging, we have been awarded a three-year grant from the Institute. The section editors and I wish to express our profound appreciation to the Institute's Director, Réjean Hébert, and its Advisory Board for their support. This grant will enable us to expand the *Journal's* scope and quality. This issue, the first in Volume 21, has a new look and format. More importantly, beginning with this issue, the *Journal* moves to a practice of including substantially more articles than in the past. By increasing the number of articles in each issue, the time interval between acceptance and publication will be greatly reduced. I know that the time lag between acceptance and publication has been a source of frustration to authors, a frustration I can well understand and which, in recent months, may have deterred some scholars from sending their work to the *Journal*. I am very pleased to report that this situation has been much improved. I fully expect that, before long, authors will not have to wait more than six to eight months for their accepted work to be published.

Our new funding will enable us to add some new sections to the *Journal*. On an occasional basis, we will feature sections on "Issues and Commentaries," "Research Notes," Practice Concepts," Clinical

News," etc... Watch the *Journal* for more information on guidelines for these new sections. The Book Review section will be expanded and editorials will appear more regularly than they have over the past two years. Finally, we will be able to give next-issue publication to articles and reports for which very quick dissemination is necessary.

This issue of the *Journal* includes an "Issues and Commentaries" section in which Dr. Benjamin Gottlieb reflects on issues and problems related to the use of volunteers in service agencies. This gives the *Journal* the opportunity to acknowledge the importance of the recently ended International Year of the Volunteer. The issues raised by Dr. Gottlieb seem particularly important at a time when, in many provinces in Canada, government policies and funding decisions seem predicated on the assumption that volunteers will be willing and able to perform work that might otherwise be done by paid workers and that agencies will be able to train volunteers and incorporate them into their service delivery plans.

The *Journal* is, indeed, entering a time of opportunity - the opportunity to expand, to become more diverse and interesting in content, to attract work of the highest quality, and to keep pace with developments in academic publishing. To fulfill this potential, however, we need submissions from researchers. Therefore, please encourage your colleagues in Canada and abroad to submit their work to the *Journal* and to be part of this exciting new era for *CJA*.

Carolyn J. Rosenthal

Editor-in-Chief