

## Editorial

# A Golden Time

*Keywords:* history of medicine, metastasis, peer review

If you were not already in the know, now you are: the American Society of Dermatopathology is nearing 50. As a human, reaching the half-century mark can be a special yet thought-provoking event – I'm acutely aware, having crossed the threshold within the last two years. At 50, it is natural for an individual to contemplate mortality, as at that moment virtually all of us are closer to the coffin than the crib. It is generally a time when one's career has matured. The recompense of a professional livelihood can be savored and enjoyed. On the down side, at least in the United States, an inevitable reminder of elderliness arrives in the mail in the form of a membership card for the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons), a lobbying organization for the aged and retired.

The aging of an organization differs distinctly from the aging of an individual. It is strictly a time for celebration. There is no need to think of mortality at all. An organization may have matured, but through a long lens its middle age can still be viewed as its infancy. On the up side, the AARP does not call.

From whence did we arise? The original group of nine, all members of the Committee on Pathology of the American Academy of Dermatology, first met with interested colleagues to organize a society exclusively for dermatopathology on December 2, 1962. The nine and selected others became the founding members. During 1963, other interested persons were added as charter members. The original nine blossomed into 45 attendees during the first annual meeting, which was held on a Tuesday evening during the 1963 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology. Where have we gone? We have become the dominant organization shepherding the interests of the discipline of dermatopathology. From nine, we have become more than a thousand.

After a decade as a Society, circumstances were such that a peer-reviewed journal dedicated exclusively to the Society's scientific interests could be established, and that represented the birth of our beloved *Journal of Cutaneous Pathology*. The *JCP*

is nearing its 39th volume of publication and will effectively turn 40 as the Society reaches half a century. The earliest Journal manuscripts were received in 1973 and the first volume was mailed in February, 1974. The first issue was created under the guidance of the Journal's first Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Leopold Montes. The first paper published in the *JCP* was a brief history of dermatopathology, as it developed within the broader scope of dermatology, penned by Dr. Herman Beerman (1). The content of early volumes included a heavy emphasis on ultrastructural assessment (2,3). Much like the current *JCP*, there was also a mix of interesting cases, case series, and correspondence. Even in the seminal pages, manuscripts articulated the use of precise histomorphology with recognition of variations that can be seen in a broader spectrum, as exemplified by an early review of the histopathology of dermatofibroma/fibrous histiocytoma (4). Curiously, metastatic lesions, including an early report of metastatic thyroid carcinoma, were as captivating then as now (5–7). Content in early issues of the Journal was supplied in balanced fashion by both dermatologists and pathologists (4,5).

Our celebratory year will begin a year from now with our 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. During our 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting next month in Seattle, the groundwork for the festival year should be laid. It is my goal to have the *JCP* as a centerpiece in the revelry. A manuscript regarding our fine history is *de rigueur*, and our Society historian, Curtis Thompson, has been charged with producing this dissertation. Our finest statesmen and stateswomen will be encouraged to contribute short pieces regarding themes such as *What Dermatopathology Has Meant to Me* or *My Biggest Contribution*. Old volumes of the *JCP* hold a treasure trove of landmark articles, some of which may have been overlooked by younger colleagues. To reintroduce such manuscripts to a modern audience with matched commentary, a monthly segment of *The JCP's Greatest Hits* will run during the celebratory year. Since the onset of my editorship, I have been searching for a way to squeeze

## Editorial

a crossword puzzle into the *JCP*. Our impending Golden Anniversary will provide the correct venue. (*Editor's note: I have a pronounced crossword addiction.*)

My editorship is an open book and I serve the Society and its members. Please forward me your individual suggestions for the Journal as we plan for our grand celebration of a momentous anniversary.

Reflect expansively about our discipline and how we can honor it. And feel the joy and excitement, for we are about to turn 50!

*Timothy H. McCalmont*  
Editor-in-Chief  
San Francisco, CA

## References

1. Beerman H. Cutaneous pathology: a historical view. *J Cutan Pathol* 1974; 1: 9.
2. Kehchi U, Kiyoshi N, Yoshitsugu T, Shigetaro S. Electron microscopic observations of the so-called granuloma glutacale infantum. *J Cutan Pathol* 1974; 1: 26.
3. Isser B, Yutaka M, Masahiro M. Stratum corneum in psoriasis vulgaris: a transmission and scanning electron microscopic study. *J Cutan Pathol* 1974; 1: 33.
4. Vilanova JR, Flint A. The morphological variations of fibrous histiocytomas. *J Cutan Pathol* 1974; 1: 155.
5. Barr R, Dann F. Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma metastatic to skin. *J Cutan Pathol* 1974; 1: 201.
6. McCalmont T. The amazin' mets. *J Cutan Pathol* 37: 1196.
7. Nashed C, Sakpal SV, Cherneykin S, Chamberlain RS. Medullary thyroid carcinoma metastatic to skin. *J Cutan Pathol*. 2010; 37: 1237.