This is the fourth and final issue for the year for the Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (JCMR). We have defined the versatility and increasing importance of cardiovascular magnetic resonance. The number of subscriptions of the Journal is increasing, the number of submissions of peer review manuscripts is increasing and the exciting success of our Journal is testimony to a brilliant future for CMR.

Several changes are in progress for the Journal. First, I am well aware of the time that it takes some authors to receive their reviews. This, unfortunately, has been due to the length of time it takes some of the reviewers to evaluate a manuscript. Accordingly, as is appropriate for any journal, the Editorial Board will be expanded and amended to provide more expeditious reviews. We are working toward having all manuscripts reviewed in a four-week interval. To that end we will increase the number of reviewers receiving manuscripts and will only use those reviews returned in our time constraints. Next, with the help of Dudley Pennell and his staff, we have been able to develop a Society website that will allow display of cine loops that you may wish to submit to support your manuscript. On this website we are also able to publish color illustrations. Likewise, for those who wish to add cines and color illustrations to their work, the web will provide a convenient site to add to the Journal’s high quality and illustrative possibility. Further, a number of review articles have been invited and are being written on relevant topical issues in magnetic resonance.

I believe that in the year 2000 you will see an even better JCMR, one that further enhances the field, our Society, and the utility of CMR. As always, I look forward to your comments and ideas on additional ways that we can further improve our Journal.

In view of the popularity of our annual meeting, this issue of the Journal publishes the abstracts for the papers submitted. In a journal format, they should be more easily readable and their illustrations more useful than abstracts that are published in a special booklet with lesser quality printing. The excellent work of Marcel Dekker, Inc., publisher of the Journal, can be seen in this and all previous issues. I would like to note that the Journal has been complimented for its high level of quality in printing and illustrations.

Finally, I would like to thank the Editorial Board and the officers and Board of the Society for their high level of support. Without their support it would not have been possible to generate a journal of such high quality in its first year.

Gerald M. Pohost, MD, Editor