

Editorial

The End of an Era

For forty-two years Abram Hoffer served as Co-Editor and Editor-in-Chief for this Journal, which began as *Schizophrenia* in 1967, was renamed *Orthomolecular Psychiatry* in 1972, and adopted its current title, *Orthomolecular Medicine*, in 1986. Few publications can boast such longevity on the part of an editor. Dr. Hoffer was at the helm for two generations, outliving many of his fellow editorial board members, including Linus Pauling, Humphry Osmond, Carl Pfeiffer, William Philpott, David Hawkins, Emanuel Cherkaskin, Hugh Riordan, and Bernard Rimland.

For twenty-two years I worked alongside Abram, as the managing editor of the Journal. We spoke with each other by phone at least weekly, communicated by e-mail almost daily (Abram was the most responsive e-mailer, always replying within a few hours), and visited in person several times each year. We became close friends and allies in developing the reach of orthomolecular medicine through the Journal. We published hundreds of articles by great clinicians and researchers but it was Abram's writing that was most anticipated and set the tone in nearly every issue. His countless editorials, book reviews, and articles were clear, convincing and inspiring, never losing sight of the goal of demonstrating the efficacy and safety of orthomolecular medicine.

This Journal was as important a part of Abram's life work as his medical practice and his involvement with International Schizophrenia Foundation and the International Society for Orthomolecular Medicine. It was gratifying for him to see the Journal reach readers in over forty countries despite being ignored by much of mainstream medicine.

The two memorials for Abram, held in Victoria in September and in Toronto in October, afforded opportunities for many people to say goodbye to their dear friend and colleague, mentor and doctor. Now we bid farewell to him and to his era of great leadership in these pages of the Journal. We begin with an article, "Abram Hoffer: Orthomolecular Pioneer", by Robert Sealey, accompanied by photographs from various periods of Dr. Hoffer's life. This is followed by an interview with Andrew Saul, Assistant Editor, and a selection of Tributes to Dr. Hoffer posted in the guestbook on-line at www.orthomed.org from people around the world. We've also chosen three articles which represent Abram's life-long interest and spirit of innovation: "Orthomolecular Treatment of Schizophrenia," "The Adrenochrome Hypothesis" and "The Future of Psychiatry." We reprint them in this commemorative issue honouring him.

After Abram's passing in May, Harold Foster, who had been Associate Editor of the Journal for several years, agreed to serve as interim Editor-in-Chief. When Harry died in August, the loss to the orthomolecular community was compounded. Harry and Abram were long-time friends and colleagues, who met regularly in Victoria. Tributes to Harry from the on-line guest book are published here.

This issue of the Journal marks the end of a long and illustrious era. While saying goodbye to Abram and Harry, we look forward to the first issue of the Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine for 2010, with a new Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors, a revitalized editorial board and a renewed outlook.

—Steven Carter

