

EDITORIAL

Opening Salvo

Patricia Katz and Edward Yelin

Many researchers are familiar with the phenomenon: your most creative ideas, reflected in grant proposals and manuscripts, never see the light of day. With NIH paylines frequently under 10% these past few years and a manuscript acceptance rate from top-flight journals at or near the same level, the acceptances you do receive are for good ideas well done—but perhaps not the ones that you feel are most likely to change research or practice, if they could be given a fair hearing by peer reviewers. Many of us who serve as peer reviewers, try as we might, end up subjecting good ideas to the same process: fighting over methodological arcana because that is something with which we can easily grapple, while paying lip service to the notion that grant funds and manuscript pages should be devoted to the most creative ideas.

ACROPEN, the American College of Rheumatology's new journal, has the wherewithal to push the boundaries a bit by placing the mark at a slightly different point on the rigor-relevant continuum. We are able to do this because, as an open-access journal, we are not subjected to the crushing decisions about how many articles can fit in each issue; we are able to publish as many as the peer-review process deems worthy. In the more traditional model, in which as few as 10% or 15% of manuscripts can be published, the line of demarcation is often based on the complete

absence of uncertainty about subject matter as well as the methods of collecting and analyzing data.

ACROPEN's founding was based on the practical desire to keep as much of the best research relevant to rheumatology within the College's stable of journals, a pressing need given that the vast majority of very good manuscripts have had to be rejected from *Arthritis and Rheumatology* and *Arthritis Care and Research* because of space limitations. ACROPEN opens up the literal room to publish important research, from the basic sciences through clinical care and epidemiology and health services research, that the College would like to keep in-house yet hadn't been able to. But it also opens up the figurative room to expand the horizons in all of the disciplines, topic areas, and methodologies that are relevant to our core readership. The journal will have fulfilled the mission the College set out for it if it opens *both* rooms. That is our opening salvo.

As Co-Editors in Chief, we are indeed fortunate to take this mission on, knowing that unlike most journals that are launched, we have a firm basis of support from the editorial team of our sister ACR journals and from the expert staff at the ACR and our publisher, Wiley. It is indeed reassuring that we can take risks with a strong safety net below. Meanwhile, with this initial issue, ACROPEN is open for business.