

EDITORIAL: REFLECTIONS

Richard P. Kluft, M.D.

It is difficult to write about the end of *DISSOCIATION*. I have just reread the editorial that accompanied the first issue in 1988, "A New Voice for A New Frontier." In that editorial I spoke of our goals for this journal:

Its objective is to provide a forum for the sharing of advances and the fruits of hard-won experience in the clinical and experimental understanding of dissociation and the dissociative disorders, to place its readership at the cutting edge of this new and rapidly developing field. In short, *DISSOCIATION* will provide a new voice for a new frontier. (Kluft, 1988, p. 1)

I also enunciated an editorial credo:

DISSOCIATION will chronicle contemporary clinicians' and scientific investigators' discoveries about dissociation and the dissociative disorders. It will also witness the dissolution of what Boorstin (1983) has described as "the obstacles to discovery - the illusions of knowledge" (p. XV). In this dialectic it will eschew the premature closure of scholarly debate and encourage both a diversity of points of view and an informed pluralism. *DISSOCIATION* will be inclusive rather than exclusive.

(Kluft, 1988, pp. 1-2)

DISSOCIATION accomplished its goals and remained true to its editorial credo. As the news that we would cease publication spread, we received many expressions of gratitude and many kind words of praise for what we have achieved. If one is going to go out, it is best to go out on top.

The September issue of international cases and this final December issue of *DISSOCIATION*, offering psychoanalytic perspectives on treating DID (orchestrated and guest-edited by Richard A. Chefetz, M.D.) demonstrate what has been accomplished. Modern knowledge about dissociation and the dissociative disorders has passed beyond the realm of its North American origins and has become a truly international field, with international contributors so skilled that they have much to teach their North American colleagues, and have

broken new ground of their own. When the modern dissociative disorders field was established it seemed quite remote from psychoanalysis and other mainstream therapies and bodies of theory. It was difficult to imagine their reconciliation and rapprochement. Now, the bridges between dissociation and other areas of study have been built; many psychoanalytic authors are writing about dissociation and those in the dissociative disorders field are placing a greater value on psychoanalytic contributions.

DISSOCIATION and the authors and editors who have contributed to *DISSOCIATION* have borne witness to these and many other constructive changes, and, in fact, have been major forces in catalyzing these transitions. There is much to be proud of, and much to be gratified by.

I would like to again thank all of the readers, authors, editors, and reviewers who have made *DISSOCIATION* what it has been, and acknowledge a debt of profound gratitude to those patients who allowed their experiences and data drawn from studying them to become a part of this journal. Special thanks are due to Bennett G. Braun, M.D., who first championed the idea of establishing a journal for the dissociative disorders field. Gratitude beyond words is due to Catherine G. Fine, Ph.D., who played an essential role in establishing both Dissociative Disorders Research Publications, Ltd., and *DISSOCIATION* itself, and remained a staunch supporter of the Editor and the Journal through times of difficulty and tribulation. David L. Fink, M.D., played an essential role in the early years of the Journal, and often provided the extra effort necessary to bring many papers into publication readiness.

DISSOCIATION would not have been established as rapidly as it was were it not for the efforts of George Greaves, Ph.D., who convinced Ridgeview Institute to sponsor the actual publication of the Journal. *DISSOCIATION* owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Ridgeview Institute over the years, because the International Society for the Study of Dissociation never was in a position to actually support the publication process itself, and did not do so. We also are indebted to Ridgeview Institute for its assignment of Ms. Beth Gault to the production of *DISSOCIATION*. A lovely person in appearance and personality, strong and determined in character, Beth Gault deserves the gratitude of the entire dissociative disorders field for providing *DISSOCIATION* with her own unique brand of

style and competence. Ridgeview and Beth Gault have been with us every galley-proof, every issue, every problem and every exhilarating triumph, every step of the way, from beginning to end.

Although hundreds of individuals served *DISSOCIATION* as reviewers, I would like to single out those few reviewers who always returned their reviews in a timely manner and with tremendous competence — Philip M. Coons, M.D., Frank W. Putnam, M.D., Elizabeth Bowman, M.D., David Gleaves, Ph.D., and Ira Brenner, M.D. These are the kind of people who ensure the quality of a journal; they enhance an editor's quality of life. Although many ISSD officers had dealings with *DISSOCIATION*, two Presidents more than any others made special efforts to understand the importance of the Journal to the field and needs of the Journal, and made it their business to try to respond to those needs — Colin A. Ross, M.D., and Catherine G. Fine, Ph.D. I am very grateful to their work on behalf of *DISSOCIATION*.

Although it is tempting to offer strongly-worded commentaries on the circumstances that surround the end of the publication of *DISSOCIATION*, to do so would betray the editorial stance, attitudes, and values that made *DISSOCIATION* what it has been for a fruitful and productive decade. I have not done so in ten years, and will not do so on this occasion. Nonetheless, the readership does deserve something in the way of explanation.

DISSOCIATION was founded at a time when the Society appreciated the need for a journal, but lacked the resources to establish a journal. The field was new and controversial. Publishers approached with the idea of a journal for the field of dissociation declined to proceed. Dissociative Disorders Research Publications, Ltd., was formed by Richard P. Kluff, M.D., and Catherine G. Fine, Ph.D., using their personal funds, to create a publisher for *DISSOCIATION*. It was already getting quotations from printers and mailing houses, and soliciting manuscripts, when Ridgeview Institute offered to support the establishment of the Journal. The Society adopted *DISSOCIATION* as its official journal. Whatever profits were made from the Journal were funneled back to Ridgeview Institute to compensate it for its costs, and to the Society to cover its related expenses. Dissociative Disorders Research Publications, Ltd., received none of these moneys.

Over the years, this arrangement was not without its difficulties, but generally worked very well. *DISSOCIATION* was always run with a minimal budget. The Society was often told that it was not possible to be timely with production unless more resources could be allocated to the Journal, but this was never deemed possible, so further requests were not made and it was understood that production would be likely to remain slower than optimal.

Over the years, the Society came to believe that it wanted increasing control over *DISSOCIATION*. It stated that it wanted to run the Journal completely under the aegis of the Society. For a number of years negotiations were conduct-

ed, but were not successful. Substantial issues remained unresolvable. Consequently, it was inevitable that the paths of Dissociative Disorders Research Publications, Ltd., and the International Society for the Study of Dissociation would part company. Without any assurance of a base of subscribers, Dissociative Disorders Research Publications, Ltd., which had already poured a significant amount of money provided by Dr. Kluff into sustaining the costs of producing *DISSOCIATION*, could not justify the financial risks that would be incurred by going on. Hence, the publication of *DISSOCIATION* has been suspended, and attempts have been made to inform the authors of manuscripts still under consideration that the Journal will not be able to publish their submissions.

We are sorry to say farewell to you, our readers. We have been comrades in a decade of growth and progress together. We of the Editorial Staff will miss participating in the process, the excitement, and the adventure that has been *DISSOCIATION*, and will miss sharing it with you. ■

REFERENCES

- Boorstin, D.J. (1983). *The discoverers*. New York: Random House.
- Kluff, R.P. (1988). A new voice for a new frontier. *DISSOCIATION*, 1(1), 1-2.