



History of the JPS 50th Anniversary Issue

The *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*—Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary



The January 2015 issue begins the 50th anniversary volume of the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*, marking a milestone for the Journal. Although the heritage of pediatric surgery followed the teaching of Ladd and Gross at the Boston Children's Hospital in the late 1930s and 1940s, the modern development of the specialty began in earnest following WWII. Recognition of the specialty was slow in coming, and in the 1950s and 1960s fewer than a dozen programs were available to train young physicians interested in children's surgery in the United States. A few organizations sponsored presentations by children's surgeons at their annual scientific meetings, but publication of articles concerning childhood surgery were relatively sparse. In 1962, Dr. Lawrence Pickett, then Chairman of the Section on Surgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), noted that it was difficult to publish papers presented at meetings accepted in adult surgical or pediatric journals [1]. Dr. Stephen L. Gans, a member of the Publications Committee of the AAP-Surgery Section, attempted to expedite publication of manuscripts presented at the meeting (Fig. 1). Finding a journal to publish these papers proved difficult, since there were no journals published in English dedicated to the fledgling field of Pediatric Surgery. Dr. Gans was convinced that a journal devoted solely to pediatric surgery was needed. Numerous efforts to find a publisher failed because pediatric surgery was considered such a small specialty. There was insufficient demand for the journal. In addition, publishers were hesitant to develop a journal that had no relationship with a major pediatric surgical organization or society. The AAP-Surgical Section was a component section within the American Academy of Pediatrics and was not an independent surgical society. Despite many obstacles, Dr. Gans was persistent and tried to recruit leaders in the field to serve as prospective members of an editorial board for a journal that did not yet exist. In July 1964 at the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS) meeting in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Dr. Gans continued to pursue the concept of developing a specialty journal and acquired additional national and international support [1].

On November 15, 1964, Dr. Gans met with Mr. Henry Stratton of Grune and Stratton Publishers in Seattle, WA, and convinced him to publish the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*. Dr. C. Everett Koop, a respected leader in the field and Surgeon-in-Chief of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia at the time, was selected as the first Editor-in-Chief (Fig. 2). Dr. Koop noted, "In 1965, perhaps the single greatest event took place that enhanced the future of pediatric surgery—the beginning of the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*" [1]. Dr. Gans was appointed Associate Editor, Professor Peter Paul Rickham of Liverpool, UK, served as Associate Editor for Great Britain, and Professor Keijiro Suruga of Tokyo, Japan, was named Associate Editor for Asia (Fig. 3A and B). The Associate Editors and Editorial Consultant Board came from various places in the world. In 1965, Drs. Koop and Gans persuaded the BAPS and the AAP-Surgery Section to establish a relationship with the new journal to

publish the transactions of their annual meetings. The *Journal* was to be published 6 times per year. In the first issue published in February 1966, Professor I.S. Ravdin, Chair of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania and a Regent and Past-President of the American College of Surgeons, wrote the lead editorial recognizing the progress of the field and the need to publish a Journal devoted to Pediatric Surgery in the English language [2]. The timing of the initiation of the Journal was important, as English was commonly accepted as the language of choice for most international scientific symposia and congresses.

It was clear that the time had come for children's surgeons to have their own journal dedicated to the specialty of pediatric surgery. The Journal was an immediate success. The number of subscribers rapidly increased, and the number of manuscripts submitted for publication was far in excess of the designated pages available to publish them. In 1971, the newly formed American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) selected the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* as its official publication. Dr. Robert E. Gross, the first President of APSA and one of the fathers of Pediatric Surgery in the US, wrote, "I think the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* has done more to advance children's surgery, not only here but around the world, above anything else in the last couple of decades" [1] (Fig. 4).

The *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* promoted recognition of the field worldwide and gave the specialty additional credibility. It was noted as one of a number of supporting factors in the decision by the American Board of Surgery to issue a Certificate of Special Competence in Pediatric Surgery in 1973. Once Board status was available, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Residency Review Committee (RRC) for Surgery became responsible for accrediting pediatric surgery resident training programs. One of the many criteria used to evaluate accredited training programs was the academic productivity of the faculty and residents and whether their work was published in a peer reviewed journal representing their specialty. The *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* fulfilled this need.

In 1976, Dr. Koop resigned his post as the Editor-in-Chief, having served 11 years in that position. He subsequently would serve as the Surgeon-General of the United States from 1981 to 1989 and focused on health care policy issues until his death in 2013. Dr. Gans was selected as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal. He was an innovative editor and strongly emphasized the peer review process [3]. The Journal was one of the first periodicals to employ an abstract and use index words to assist computer information retrieval. An International Abstracts section was added to provide the Journal readership with information concerning children's surgical articles published elsewhere. In 1979, the Canadian Association of Pediatric surgeons (CAPS) agreed to publish the transactions of its annual scientific meeting in the Journal. That same year, Professor Michele Carcassone of Marseille, France, was selected the Editor for Europe.

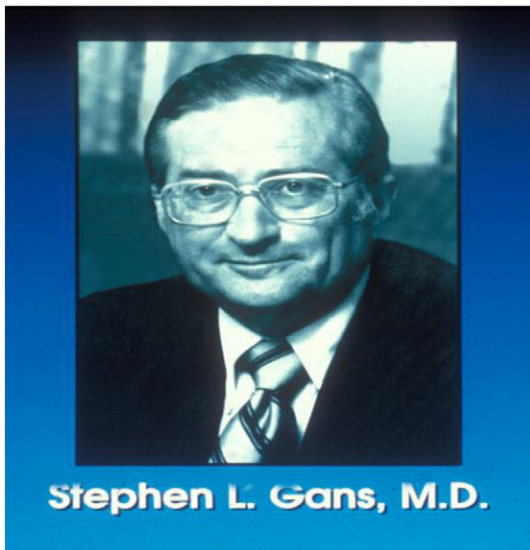


Fig. 1. Dr. Stephen L. Gans—Chair, Publications Committee, Surgical Section—AAP 1962. Dr. Gans was the innovator of the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*. Dr Gans served as the 2nd Editor-in-Chief from 1977 to 1994.

In June 1986, Drs. Gans and Jay Grosfeld, then an Associate Editor, met with Mr. Thomas Mackey, representing Grune and Stratton Publishers in Orlando, FL, to discuss the future of the Journal—then its 20th year of publication. They negotiated an agreement to publish the journal monthly. Finally, the Journal had come of age and gained the respect of the publishing world and achieved its place among the other more mature monthly surgical periodicals. In 1988, Professor Daniel G. Young of Glasgow became the Editor for the British Isles and Ireland. That same year the Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons (PAPS) became the fifth surgical society to develop a relationship with the Journal serving as the organization's official publication. This expansion into the east further emphasized the international nature of the journal. In 1990 Professor Jan Molenaar of Rotterdam, became the Editor for Europe, and in 1992 Professor Takeshi Miyano of Tokyo replaced Professor Suruga as the Editor for Asia. In 1992, a sister periodical was developed: *Seminars in Pediatric Surgery*—a quarterly publication that would serve as a valuable bridge between the journal and the various



Fig. 2. C. Everett Koop, MD—the first Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* (1966–1977).

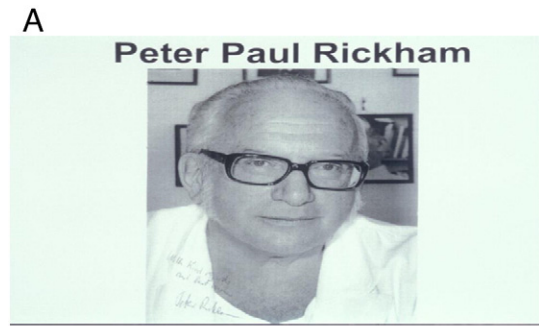


Fig. 3. A. (left) Professor Peter Paul Rickham, Liverpool, UK—first Associate Editor for Great Britain. B. Professor Keijiro Suruga, Tokyo, Japan—the first appointed Editor for Asia.

textbooks in the field. Each issue of *Seminars* contained numerous articles concerning a single topic of importance that provided detailed information in great depth. Drs. Gans and Grosfeld served as the founding editors of the *Seminars*.

On August 1, 1994, after a valiant battle with bladder cancer, Dr. Stephen L. Gans passed away at age 74 years. He had served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal for 18 years. Dr. Gans also pioneered rigid airway endoscopy and minimally invasive “peritoneoscopy” in infants and children in the 1970's, the latter as a prelude to the current common use of laparoscopic surgery [4].

Dr. Jay L. Grosfeld of Indianapolis, succeeded Dr. Gans as the third Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* and Editor of the *Seminars* (Fig. 5). The Journal office was moved from Los Angeles to Indianapolis. Over the next few years, the Journal experienced several managerial changes reflective of acquisitions and mergers that affected the publishing world. That included W.B. Saunders, Columbia Broadcasting System, Brace-Jovanovich Inc., C.V. Mosby, Churchill-Livingston, and eventually Reed-Elsevier became and still is the parent

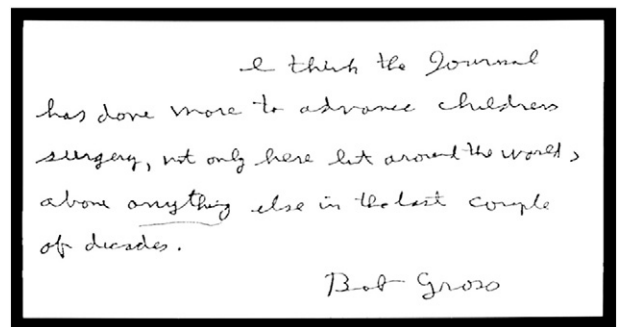


Fig. 4. A hand written note to Dr. Gans from Dr. Robert E. Gross – the first President of APSA – concerning the importance of the Journal to the field of Pediatric Surgery (made available from the personal file of Dr. and Mrs. (Elizabeth) Gans).

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