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AJO Centennial: The Influence of Early Ophthalmic Hospitals on the Journal

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Abstract

Purpose: To consider the American Journal of Ophthalmology's role as not only a forum to describe clinical and scientific advances but also as a record of institutional histories. We used the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and the Wills Eye Hospital as case studies on the journal's role in documenting the people and organizations that have moved ophthalmology forward.

Design: Perspective

Methods: Using the ScienceDirect database, we conducted a literature search to gather all mentions of the three eye hospitals in the journal's archives from 1918 to 2018. We evaluated those search results to identify a few of the individuals and articles that highlight how the history of eye institutions are reflected in the AJO.

Results: Searches for the aforementioned three hospitals yielded over 3400 results in journal archives. These included articles on their histories, proceedings from clinical case conferences, profiles of prominent surgeons, and information about educational offerings, among others. Many of those articles were written by physicians from those institutions who also served on the AJO's editorial board or had a long history of publishing in the journal.

Conclusions: The AJO has played a crucial role in the last 100 years as a register of ophthalmic history. The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and Wills Eye Hospital provide three examples of how that role manifests.

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