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Journal of Pediatric Surgery Lecture

The Journal of Pediatric Surgery: Its First 50 Years[☆]

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ABSTRACT

This article is based on the Journal of Pediatric Surgery Lecture at the 2017 meeting of the British Association of Pediatric Surgeons. This lecture was renamed The Jay L. Grosfeld /Journal of Pediatric Surgery Lecture in honor of Dr. Jay L. Grosfeld who was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Pediatric Surgery (JPS) from 1994 until his passing in 2016. The first part of this paper recounts the first 50 years of JPS starting with the efforts of Drs. Koop and Gans to start a Journal devoted to Pediatric Surgery. The second part of the paper reviews the top ten citations in the first 50 years of JPS. Finally, the last part of the article discusses what the future may hold for JPS.

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Contents

Top 10 Citations in JPS	216
Why is JPS so valuable?	216
What does the future hold?	216
References	216



I was very honored to be asked to present the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* (JPS) lecture at the combined British Association of Pediatric Surgeons (BAPS) and International Pediatric Endosurgery Group (IPEG) meeting in London in late July, 2017. This was an outstanding

meeting of two prominent societies, and a large amount of information was shared at this meeting. In addition, the JPS lecture was renamed the Jay L. Grosfeld/Journal of Pediatric Surgery Lecture in honor of Dr. Jay Grosfeld who was Editor-in-Chief of JPS from 1994 until his passing in 2016. Much of the information from this manuscript comes from two of Dr. Grosfeld's articles discussing its history [1,2]. Information for this paper also came from comments made by Dr. James O'Neill at the JPS reception during the 2017 American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) meeting and from other correspondence with Dr. O'Neill [3]. Dr. O'Neill was in the center of much of the history of JPS and is very knowledgeable about its founding and history. It was wonderful to have Mrs. Marge Grosfeld in attendance at this lecture, as she has meant so much to the world of pediatric surgery and JPS. She is a good friend to many pediatric surgeons around the world.

Although Drs. Ladd and Gross are considered the founders of the field of Pediatric Surgery and practiced Pediatric Surgery at the Boston Children's Hospital in the 1920's to 1950's, recognition of Pediatric Surgery as a specialty was slow, both in the United States (U.S.) and abroad. There were very few training programs available in the U.S., Great Britain, Europe, and Asia in the 1950's and 60's to train young surgeons interested in Pediatric Surgery. Dr. Ladd had helped develop the American Board of Otorhinolaryngology and wanted the same designation for Pediatric Surgery in the U.S. [3] In 1956, Dr. C. Everett Koop, who

[☆] BAPS Jay L. Grosfeld/Journal of Pediatric Surgery Lecture.
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was Surgeon-in-Chief at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (and later Surgeon-General of the United States from 1982 to 1989), tried to organize Pediatric Surgery formally in the U.S. as a surgical specialty with board certification, and in his words, "It failed miserably." He was told by the leadership of the American Board of Surgery (ABS) that you, that is Pediatric Surgery, "have no body of knowledge, no certified training programs, and no journals" [3]. Therefore, step one in formalizing Pediatric Surgery as a specialty in the U.S. was developing a journal to create a body of knowledge. Step two was specialty certification by the ABS (which eventually occurred in 1973), and step three was certification of the Pediatric Surgery training programs. Regarding the "lack of a body of knowledge" which was expressed by the ABS, this was a true statement. In 1962, Dr. Larry Pickett, the Chairman of the Section on Surgery of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP SoSu), voiced concern that it was difficult to publish papers presented at the annual meetings of the AAP SoSu in adult surgical or pediatric journals [1,2]. This problem was also found in many other countries as well. At that time, Dr. Mark Ravitch was editing a small section in the *Journal of Surgery* that was devoted to Pediatric Surgery. However, only a few Pediatric Surgery articles were being published each month [1]. At the same time, in 1962, Dr. Steve Gans was a member of the Publications Committee of the AAP SoSu and had been assigned to expedite publication of manuscripts presented at the meetings [1,2]. Similar to Dr. Pickett, he was finding this to be a difficult task, as there were no journals published in the English language dedicated to Pediatric Surgery. However, Dr. Gans was convinced that a journal devoted solely to Pediatric Surgery was needed, and he began to speak to pediatric surgeons about developing such a journal, and the feedback was very positive [1,2]. Among problems that he encountered were finding a publisher, as many medical publishers at the time thought that Pediatric Surgery was such a small specialty that there was insufficient demand for such a journal. Also, the publishers were concerned about developing a journal which had no formal relationship with a major pediatric surgical association or society [1,2]. It was more apparent than it is now that the SoSu was a component section within the AAP and not an independent surgical society. However, Dr. Gans persisted and

began to recruit leaders in Pediatric Surgery to serve as future members of the editorial board for a journal that did not yet exist [1,2].

At the 1964 BAPS meeting in Rotterdam, Dr. Gans met with a number of leading international pediatric surgeons to convince them to be part of the JPS Editorial Board and to ask BAPS to allow JPS to be its official journal (Fig. 1) [1,2]. Later that year, in November, Dr. Gans met with Mr. Henry Stratton of Grune and Stratton Publishers in Seattle and was able to convince him to publish JPS. It is important to mention that a number of other publishers had turned him down [1,2]. Interestingly, Dr. Gans did not feel he had the stature to lead the journal, and so Dr. Koop became its first Editor-in-Chief [3]. It was decided that Dr. Gans would be an Associate Editor and Professors Peter L. Rickham and Keijiro Suruga were named Associate Editors for Great Britain and Asia, respectively.

Dr. I. S. Ravdin, who was Chair of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, and also a Regent and Past President of the American College of Surgeons, wrote the lead editorial in the first issue. He was a recognized leader of surgery in the U.S. at that time, and his endorsement of the journal was critically important. As is seen in a copy of that editorial (Fig. 2), he notes, "The scope of this journal is international, for it will accept the best papers available, regardless of their origin." He also notes that our colleagues in France, Germany, and Italy have publications dealing with Pediatric Surgery, but that it is important that we have a journal published in the English language, as English was becoming the universal language, certainly in medicine [1,2]. The Journal was an immediate success, and the number of subscribers to the journal rapidly increased. Also, the volume of manuscripts submitted for publication was far in excess of the designated pages available to publish them [1,2].

I have designated the first ten years of the Journal as the "Koop Years" or the "Early Years". These were really the "Infant Years", so to speak, for the journal. It was very important that both BAPS and the AAP SoSu had agreed to publish papers from their annual meeting in JPS the year prior to forming the Journal, and it was also important that APSA agreed that JPS would be its official publication in 1971. The first APSA president, Dr. Robert Gross, the most revered and respected

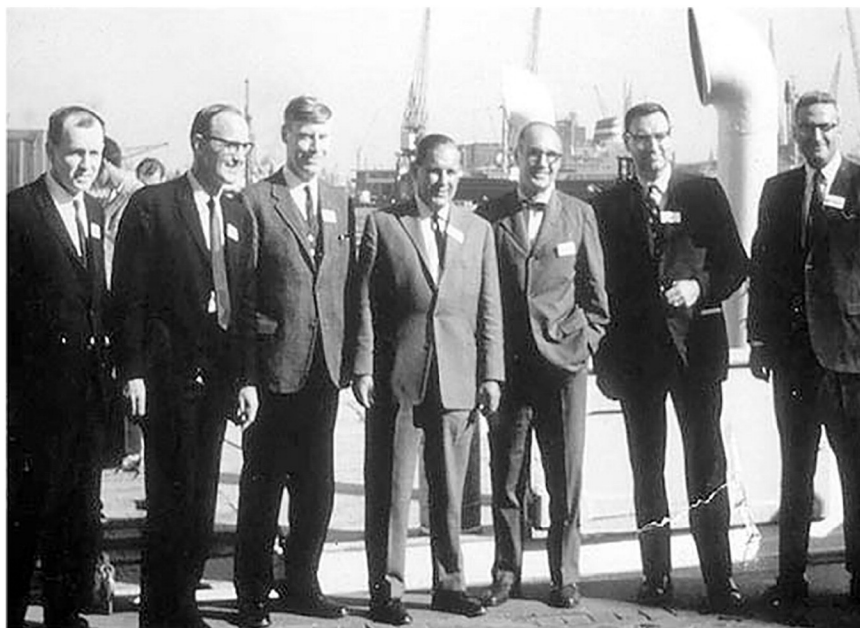


Fig. 1. This photograph was taken at the 1964 BAPS meeting in Rotterdam where Dr. Gans met with a number of leading surgeons to ask them to be part of the future Editorial Board of the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*. Surgeons who can be identified include Dr. Dan Hays (second from left), Dr. Hugh Lynn (third from right), Dr. C.E. Koop (second from right) and Dr. Gans (far right).

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