

Prologue

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE OF THE *JOURNAL* represents the proceedings of the symposium that marked the 20th anniversary of the American Board of Family Practice. The anniversary celebration was held in Lexington, KY, on October 12–13, 1989. Several hundred people from the United States, Canada, and abroad were invited to attend. These people had all, in some way, made contributions to the successes enjoyed by the American Board of Family Practice.

As one considers the history of the Board (as one is inclined to do at anniversaries), it becomes obvious that there has been one outstanding driving force that has provided the Board with impetus, direction, and thrust. The editorial staff believes that this supplemental issue should be dedicated to that force, embodied in Dr. Nicholas J. Pisacano.

Dr. Pisacano's contributions to the development of the specialty of Family Practice are so numerous that they are virtually impossible to recount. Nevertheless, it seems appropriate to record in some permanent fashion a recognition of the zeal, dedication, and powerful leadership exhibited by this man. There are many men and women in medicine who have made major contributions to the profession and to the welfare of the public through the profession. There are, however, a limited number of people who have demonstrated such strong dedication of purpose and loyalty to a cause. Nick, the name by which most of us have come to know him, came from relatively humble beginnings in urban Philadel-

phia. He has, over the years, developed an incredible network of friends and associates both within and outside the medical profession. He has earned the respect of a wide variety of outstanding persons, examples of whom are authors of the several papers presented in this supplement.

Although it is true that many people have contributed significantly to the creation, development, and nurture of the specialty of Family Practice, no other person has focussed attention on the quality of the specialty more than Nick Pisacano. He has been consistently and stubbornly committed to quality and concern for the public. He is recognized widely by leaders of other specialty boards as the stable conscience, insisting that "right" decisions be made, irrespective of their popularity.

Personally, Nick is known to be a warm and generous person, whose commitment to high moral standards can be absolutely relied upon. He can be a formidable opponent, especially when his adversary is suspected of exhibiting less than high moral values.

It is this spirit of dedication to quality that has been so effective in the creation and development of a young and struggling specialty. Through the leadership of Nick Pisacano and others like him, the specialty has progressed from a concept to reality and is on the verge of assuming a powerful role in American and international medicine.

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