

## Editor-in-Chief's Commentary: Collaborate to Innovate

**Stephen P. Spielberg, MD, PhD**

Anniversaries are important events—for individuals, families, organizations, countries, and even for Journals. The year 2014 marks an important anniversary for DIA and *TIRS*. This is the 50th anniversary of the creation of DIA, and it marks the first birthday of *TIRS* and my first anniversary as Editor-in-Chief.

For me personally, this has been a year of discovery, exploration, and challenge in conceptualizing the roles of a peer-reviewed journal in the context of DIA and all its other activities, and in the context of the remarkable revolution in biologic and medical sciences that we are living through. It has been an honor as well as great fun to meet with so many members of DIA from around the world, to attend editors' meetings, to work with our publisher, SAGE, and our editorial staff at DIA. Most recently, I visited our DIA office in Basel, had detailed discussions with selected DIA members, and participated in the first "DIA Local Live Lounge" to meet broader membership in the area and to learn their impressions of *TIRS* and its future. In all my encounters, I have been striving to understand the needs of DIA members, of all involved in the processes of discovery, development, evaluation, regulation, and use of new medical products, and to determine how *TIRS* can address some of those needs. One message is clear: the way in which we seek to understand and use new information is changing as fast or faster than our science. And, from all these discussions, I see huge opportunities for our Journal in the context of all that DIA does.

It is thus a good time to use this anniversary as an opportunity to review some of the activities of this past year, and look forward to the future of *TIRS*. We have grown the editorial board of *TIRS*, bringing in many outstanding new members from fields that represent our DIA constituencies. We will be striving to expand our international representation on the board, reflecting DIA membership and the increasingly global nature of bringing innovation to patient care. We have two new Associate Editors, Drs MaryAnn Foote and Lisa Jenkins, experienced communicators in biomedical science, who will be working to review our editorial practices, and strengthen both the quality and timeliness of our review processes. We have

begun exploration of new electronic communication tools and brought in Dr Eric Perakslis as an Associate Editor to help guide these efforts. This is critical as we strive to remain relevant in an age when new knowledge is shared at rapid speed. Communicating regularly is necessary, particularly with a bimonthly journal and DIA meetings and trainings spanning the yearly calendar. We want to share information as soon and as broadly as possible. We have initiated podcasts based on important articles in each issue of the journal. We will be establishing a new blog "Collaborate to Innovate," and explore how to keep discussion lively and timely.

From the beginning, it has become apparent to me that we are uniquely positioned to create a different kind of journal, one fully integrated into other DIA activities and goals. We have new section editors, working to expand the input of high-quality articles, drive the review process, and to select important arenas for special sections of the journal. We included a special section on women's and children's health last November, and our January issue this year focused on biostatistics. Other topics that we are considering include manufacturing quality/compounding, ethics, translational science innovation, biometrics/modeling, and other timely issues that influence all of us in academia, industry, the regulatory community, and beyond.

However, I think the opportunity for ongoing collaboration goes well beyond a single special issue. Ideally, a special issue will spawn podcasts, webinars, blogs, ongoing discourse, and novel collaborations, leading to symposia at DIA meetings that, in turn, will lead to further articles. We are uniquely positioned to convene an ongoing dialogue leading to creative and practical change using all the resources of *TIRS* and DIA, creating a variety of portals into knowledge development and pathways to ongoing collaboration and discussion. One of our colleagues in Europe commented that we cannot be like "SCRIPT" in terms of quick news stories of daily interest. I agree. Our space is more one of ongoing discussion leading to sustainable innovation. If we consider innovation in the context of experiments to improve how we approach all that we do, the continuum of publication, commentary using all evolving electronic

technologies (and evaluating the utility of such technologies), and face-to-face meetings becomes a special platform for creative change and evaluation. We have the opportunity to move a journal from an archive of articles to part of a vibrant, real-time learning environment. Please share your thoughts and ideas on

how we can achieve these goals with me and other members of the editorial board as we move forward.

—Stephen P. Spielberg, MD, PhD  
*Editor-in-Chief*