Reflections on writing editorials for *Foot & Ankle Surgery: Techniques, Reports & Cases*

Thomas S. Roukis, DPM, PhD, FACFAS, Editor-in-Chief, Foot & Ankle Surgery: Techniques, Reports & Cases

I recently wrote a small commentary in the *American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons Update* on my experiences training as a fellow with Lowell Scott Weil, Sr, DPM, FACFAS who has sadly been stricken with Alzheimer's disease. In reflecting on what I wanted to share for that segment, I thought back to the first time I learned of “Sr”. In 1997 I was a first year podiatric resident and was given the task of securing journal articles for an upcoming quarterly literature review. I remember going to the hospital’s medical library and leafing through the various journals that had articles pertinent to foot and ankle surgery. While reviewing the 1997 June/July issue of the *Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery* I stumbled across an editorial that Sr. had written titled, “Times are a-changin’”. In this editorial, which was his introductory one after being elected as the new Editor-in-Chief, he presented his personal opinion on the journals current strengths and limitations; provided a clearly defined road-map intended to take the journal to the next level of relevance; intermixed some controversial comments about the contribution he needed from readers of the journal for success; and even shared some humorous comments about his beloved Chicago White Sox baseball team. Although early in my podiatric career, I was already well-read and recognized his efforts in1-14 and encourage you to do the same by accessing them through the QR-code below. I believe that if Dr. Weil, Sr. could provide me with advice today about writing an editorial for FASTRAC he would offer the following:

- Follow the journals author submission guidelines
- Be brief and clear
- Write for those who read the journal
- Don’t be afraid to discuss a controversial topic if it will stimulate meaningful discussion
- Don’t prevent others from the opportunity to contribute

Although I’ve been mostly true to what I think his advice would be, there is currently no clear path to involve others in submitting editorial commentary to FASTRAC without a personal invitation from me. So, what now? Well, in addition to penning my own editorials, I am presenting an open invitation to readers of the journal to submit an editorial for publication in FASTRAC. Through sharing your comments, I hope that FASTRAC can follow in Sr’s footsteps and empower all interested readers to grow as a person and influence each other for the greater good, specifically, the betterment of patients under our care.

Be well,
Tom

References