

A Letter from the CEO



Dr. Patrick Quinlan,
Interim Chief Executive Officer of Ochsner Clinic, L.L.C.

The *Ochsner Journal* was first published in January 1999 to carry on a literary tradition dating back to the 1940s with *Selected Writings from the Ochsner Clinic* and its descendent, *Ochsner Clinic Reports*. We hope that you, our readers, will find the information presented in this, our second volume, timely and useful in your professional lives.

Dr. Perrillo continues in his role as Editor-in-Chief. His acknowledged skill as a medical writer, researcher, and clinician eminently qualify him for this role.

As the practice of medicine, like all modern business, becomes increasingly complex and demanding, we periodically reach decision points. Increasing demands, coupled with finite resources, have required a reassessment of our priorities. The medical and lay press alike have recognized what we as professionals all know: increased work volume is the most common consequence of decreased reimbursement. New regulatory requirements have further increased demands on our time.

We judge our commitment more by what we do than by what we say. This journal and the effort it represents are testimony to the continued dedication of the authors, Ochsner Clinic, and the Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation to medical education and research. We hope that *The Ochsner Journal* will provide a forum for continued communication in the medical community, and we invite the ideas and contribution of our readers. We ask our friends, old and new, to strengthen the community of physicians at a time when so much distracts and even divides us. Through communication we can care for one another so that we can better care for our patients.