

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Welcome to the Jan/Feb, issue of FOCUS, our first of 2007 and the first of our 16th year of national publication. I'm happy to report that just about all of our writers have signed on with us for another year, so, look forward to more of their timely articles in respiratory care, sleep medicine and management in 2007.

We're also working day and night to put the finishing touches on the 7th annual FOCUS conference coming up April 19-21st in Nashville. Without a doubt, it's going to be our strongest program yet. We've expanded the program to eight tracks of lectures featuring 64 talks and four early-bird breakfast workshops and as you can see from the cover, we're very excited to have Robert F. Kennedy Jr., nephew of the late president and son of the late attorney general, as our keynote speaker. Mr. Kennedy is an attorney/activist dealing with issues related to the polluting of the environment. He is also an incredibly dynamic speaker whom you'll not want to miss. We'll have all of our usual fun and frolic at the conference as well. Plenty of food and drink in the exhibit hall, plenty of prizes and giveaways (including a 2007 Ford FOCUS car or \$10,000 cash) and great seats at the Grand Ol' Opry (a blast last year), so, try to join us this April and don't forget our special offer for department directors! Bring your "significant other" for only \$50! That's right. If you are the director of a respiratory care department or sleep lab you may bring your "significant other" to enjoy all of the conference's activities *with* you (no CEU's however), for only \$50! A great offer and a great way for the *two* of you to enjoy the conference (and a little mini vacation) *together*, quite economically.

Meanwhile, we have an excellent issue here for your perusal. Phil Perry offers up an interesting management self-assessment quiz on page 8 and Bill Wojciechowski RRT provides readers with a solid review of Histoplasmosis on page 10. Regina Patrick RPSGT has contributed an article entitled, Exploding Head Syndrome - a must-read if there ever was one and Marilyn Kennedy's article begs the question; "Should you Leave or Fight it Out" an article that discusses what you should do if you

are being severely abused or taken for granted at work. Dr. Herbert Patrick MD's article (page 16) has to do with ventilator alarm settings and Patrick Sorenson RPSGT writes on how to interact with parents of pediatric patients undergoing sleep studies. Therapists working in homecare will appreciate Jim Stegmaier RRT's article on patient care plans found on page 20 and Dr. Robert Crapo MD contributes an excellent piece on quality control in the PFT lab. Dave Wheeler RRT, writes on non-invasive positive pressure ventilation on page 24 and Leah Curtin RN PhD writes a very interesting piece on how many managers often "set up" their own people to fail. Find it on page 26. Steve Grenard RRT RPSGT weighs in on the hot topic of the credentialing wars that are going on between the NBRC and the BRPT. Read his take on the matter on page 28. Other excellent articles by Vernon Pertelle RRT, Duane Johnson PhD, John Salyer RRT, Frank Roman MD and Dave Gourley RRT, also grace this issue, so, take a look at the table of contents found on page 7.

Speaking of taking a look - we've also printed the 2007 FOCUS conference program and registration form in this issue. We encourage you to look it over and see if you can make it happen to join us this year. The program is found on page 45. Lastly, a new friend, Rhonda Vosmus RRT-NPS, from the Medical Center of Maine in Portland sent us an interesting report on her and her boss Chris Hirsch RRT's trip to a hospital in Haiti. You'll never complain about your work environment again after reading this story which ends with a wish-list of what she'd love to bring with her on future trips. So there we have it. Enjoy this issue and try to join us in Nashville for what is going to be a fantastic event. We'll see you there. Regards,

Bob Miglino RRT MPS - Publisher



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