

# A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome to the Jan/Feb, issue of FOCUS, our first issue of 2008 and the first of our 17th year of national publication. I'm happy to report that all of our writers have signed on with us for another year. We thus look forward to publishing their timely articles for your perusal throughout 2008.

We're also working day and night to put the finishing touches on the 8th annual FOCUS conference coming up April 10-12 in Nashville. Without a doubt, it's going to be our best yet. We've expanded the program to now include nine tracks of lectures (featuring 72 talks), plus five early-bird breakfast workshops. We've also added the 6-hour Asthma Educator Course as a pre-conference program on April 9th (the day before the conference officially begins) which will provide an opportunity to earn 6 more CEU's in addition to the 18-20 one can earn attending the main conference. We're excited about this asthma educator course because it is the actual six hour course provided by the Association of Asthma Educators, who for this particular program selected as instructors, Tim Opt'Holt Ed.D, RRT AE-C and Ben Francisco PhD, PNP, AE-C, two of the finest speakers in the nation on this particular topic. We're also excited by the keynote event we'll be having; an open, town-hall discussion on the state of the American Health Care System moderated by physician/attorney Frank Roman MD JD. We feel that this is going to be just about as timely and pertinent as it gets, especially in this election year. Politics aside, however, the issue is bursting at the seams as employers continue to struggle with healthcare premiums and as more and more employers stop providing healthcare insurance as a benefit, altogether. We'll have numerous microphones in the audience so that as many people as possible can give their comments and perspectives. We think it's going to be quite thought-provoking (exactly what a good keynote should be!)

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 2008 Ford FOCUS automobile or \$10,000 cash) and great seats to the Grand Ol' Opry show, so, try to join us this April.

Meanwhile, we have here an issue of FOCUS bursting with good articles for your perusal. Management guru, Phil Perry, offers an interesting article about managing the increasing number of Hispanic workers in the U.S., an article not about Hispanic *health care workers* per se, but good reading nevertheless, for any manager. It is found on page 10. Dr. Herbert Patrick's article (page 14) has to do with the factors associated with unplanned extubations and Regina Patrick, one of our sleep writers, contributes an article entitled, Bright Light Therapy and Post-Partum Depression which begins on page 16. Sandy McCleaster has a piece that will be of

interest to educators entitled, Outcomes Assessment in RC Programs on page 20 and Don Steinert has written a very interesting article on Glycosylated Hemoglobin found on page 22. Next up is Bill Wojciechowski, who provides readers with a solid review of Fluid Dynamics on page 26. Mike McPeck discusses inhaled aerosolized opiates on page 28 and Michael Decker discusses various pharmaceuticals employed in sleep medicine on page 30. Marilyn Kennedy, another of our management writers, then contributes an article that begs the question; "Should you Hire a Career Coach" on page 34. Jim Harvey our PFT expert, has contributed an article entitled, The Mysterious Closing Volume found on page 36. Steve Grenard, another of our sleep writers, contributes a piece entitled, Is the Old Hag a Symptom of OSAHS, found on page 40 and therapists working in homecare will appreciate Vernon Pertelle's news that CMS will soon approve home diagnostics for CPAP. Vernon's article begins on page 42. A "one-pager" having to do with ways to obtain reimbursement to attend a conference (page 48) was written by yours truly, and on page 49, we include the entire 9-page FOCUS conference brochure for your review.

Dave Wheeler, who usually writes on clinical respiratory care topics, contributes what I would categorize as a management article in this issue. It is entitled, Creating a Culture of Innovation, an excellent piece which starts on page 46. Our FOCUS on Technology piece in this issue has to do with Wireless Polysomnography (page 58) and another of our sleep writers, Dr. Frank Roman, writes about Melatonin on page 62.

Other excellent articles by David Kissin (blood gases), Duane Johnson (the business of sleep), Ken Wyka (homecare), John Salyer RRT (neonatal respiratory care), Dave Gourley (JCAHO issues), Doug Gardenhire (respiratory pharmaceuticals), Dr. John Marini (mechanical ventilation) Ken Capek (hyperbaric medicine) and our student paper this issue, by RC student Gary Wright, also grace this issue. That's 28 original articles just in this issue! We then finish the issue with our *Product Highlights*, our *Industry News* section and our *Employment* section.

So there we have it. Enjoy this issue and try to join us in Nashville for what is going to be a fantastic event.

Regards,  
Bob Miglino RRT MPS - Publisher



## ATTENTION DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

**For its 2008 conference in Nashville, Focus is allowing Respiratory Care Department Directors and Sleep Lab Managers who register (at the regular conference fee of \$325), to bring their "significant other" to the conference totally free of charge.**

**This is an unparalleled offer, so seize the opportunity to combine a great academic experience with a wonderful mini-getaway vacation with your loved one.**

**The 8th Annual Focus Conference  
April 10-12, 2008  
The Opryland Hotel - Nashville, Tennessee**