

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome to the July/August issue of FOCUS. As I sit and write this it is 98 degrees outside and humid as all get-out. I'm reminded however, that I should consider myself lucky in that it's not **108** degrees (or even higher) as it is in many of the places our readers live and work. Like you, I'm seeing, on T.V. and in the newspapers more and more coverage pertaining to record heat, violent weather swings, highly *unusual* weather for particular regions of the world and literally, melting continents - and there's one reason for it - Global Warming - something that is definitely and *fully* upon us and getting worse, literally by the day.

After seeing former Vice President Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" recently and after seeing former NBC news anchorman, Tom Brokaw's global warming documentary on the *Discovery Channel* last night, and after seeing the film, "Who Killed the Electric Car" which documents how General Motors purchased, solely for the purposes of *squashing*, cutting edge battery technology that would have resulted in an electric car 90% of American's could have used regularly, I am shaking my head in disgust.

As health care professionals I feel we all should become much more acquainted with global warming and its ramifications so that we can become activists against its proliferation. Right now, most Americans are sleepwalking thru this rapidly growing problem, yet, we therapists, along with other health care professionals, are going to be increasingly dealing with the inevitable respiratory problems that we'll be seeing in our ER's and our ICU's. There can be no more rationalizations or hiding of heads in the sand that the problem is not serious enough yet and/or might not affect us for years to come. We will be seeing severe changes in our country (and our world), in most of *our* lifetimes if action isn't immediately begun to thwart this growing threat. I urge our FOCUS readers then, with the power and voice we have as health care professionals, to first, edu-

cate ourselves further on this problem, then take that knowledge and use it to demand that our political leaders act on the problem, straight away. I don't usually use my publisher's column as a pulpit, but this issue of global warming is growing in its ferocity and simply cannot be ignored any longer.

That being said, I hope everyone enjoys this issue of FOCUS. Inside we have 22 articles, reviews, opinions and more, pretty evenly divided between respiratory clinical, sleep clinical and management - something for everyone.

This issue was just mailed to 60,218 respiratory and sleep professionals. If you know of colleagues who might enjoy their own free subscription, please give them this issue when you're done reading it or give them the subscription card found inside if you don't need it yourself to renew your own subscription.

Meanwhile we're busy working on the annual Focus Buyers Guide which will be sent to all *managers* in respiratory care and sleep medicine just a few weeks from now. Upon the buyer's guide's completion we will begin working on the academic agenda of next year's FOCUS conference which again will be held at the Opryland hotel in Nashville, April 19-21, 2006. Save your nickels for the most cost-effective and fun-filled conference around. We plan to make it another good one like the one we just had in April. Until then I welcome all suggestions as to both speakers and topics, all of which can be sent to me at BobM@Focus.com. Have a great remainder of the summer.

Regards,
Bob Miglino - RRT, MPS



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