Welcome to the March/April issue of Focus Jour nal. I have to start this issue off by thanking our readers, conference exhibitors, speakers and friends in respiratory care and sleep who gave us hundreds of hours of their input putting together this year’s FocusJour nal conference. We have a superb agenda, great speakers and an exhibit hall that will be brimming with exhibiting companies, roving entertainment, door prizes (including a 2008 Ford FOCUS automobile) and plenty of food and drink. We’ll be injecting some surprises along the way as well, and our special evening at the Grand Ol’ Opry will be as memorable as it always is. Registration is running ahead of last year and we expect a solid 3200+ people at this year’s event. By the way, there’s still time to join us; perhaps just for a day if that’s all you can get away for, so consider coming down to the Opryland Hotel where you can register on-site for any combination of Wednesday (for the special 6-hour asthma educator’s course) or the regular conference running Thursday - Saturday. Bring along your “significant other” and make a mini-getaway out of it! The entire program, including info on speakers, topics, hotels and more, can be found at www.focusJourn al.com.

Let me also take this opportunity to announce that Focus 2009 will be held at the Walt Disney Coronado Resort in Orlando, Florida, on May 14-15, 2009! We are very excited about this because we were not only able to have our conference in Orlando at a perfect time of year; May, as Goldilocks said…not too hot, not too cold, but just right), but we were able to secure an actual Disney property - the incredible Disney Coronado Resort where we were able to reserve plenty of rooms at only $129 a night! As always, the driving force of the Focus conference is affordability and with this room rate, we feel that one would be hard-pressed to visit Disney any more economically. Disney also throws in lots of extras, like free pickup/delivery to the airport, along with other amenities that will save our attendees money! We’ll be telling you much more about the 2009 conference all year, but for now, please reserve the dates - May 14-15, 2009.

Now, let me tell you a little about this issue. Dr. Herbert Patrick starts us off with a report on face mask designs and their effects on drug delivery to the lungs that is interesting. It is found on page 10. Regina Patrick, one of our sleep writers, then follows with an article on lung volume and obstructive sleep apnea found on page 12. Dave Wheeler writes on liberating patients from mechanical ventilation on page 14 and Don Steinert contributes a piece on Lipoproteins and COPD beginning on page 18. One of our homecare columnists, Vernon Pertelle, writes about reimbursement for home care therapists on page 22 and Bill Wojciechowski gives readers an up-to-date review on that old nemesis, pulmonary hypertension. Bill’s article begins on page 26.

Mike McPeek completes his article on aerosolizing opioids on page 28 and Dr. Michael Decker, another of our sleep writers, discusses pharmaceuticals used in the treatment of restless leg syndrome. Pulmonary function guru, Jim Harvey, writes about arterial blood gas accuracy in the PFT lab (page 34) and another of our sleep writers, Steve Grenard, contributes an interesting piece about military troops and their crucial need to stay awake on page 36. Educators will find Sandra M CCIeraster’s piece about administering the "Practical" Exam (page 38) very interesting. We continue with Lisa Rapelle’s article about indoor air...
quality on page 40, then Patrick Sorrenson, writes a fascinating article having to do with the connection between memory and REM sleep. It is found on page 42. Take a look at the story of the Vapotherm "comeback" I, wrote on page 44. It has to do with integrity in business.

Our technical writer, Stephanie Richardson, writes about MDI’s in this issue (page 46) and my favorite writer, Leah Curtin, writes her ethics piece on the topic of honesty in the workplace. Find it on page 50. Dr. Frank Roman, (the moderator at our keynote event at the FOCUS conference this year), gives us his impressions of the Michael Moore documentary, SICKO on page 52. Dr. Wesley Granger then updates us on the importance of umbilical cord blood gases. His article begins on page 54. Ken Wyka, another home care columnist of ours, has written a really excellent article on weaning chronic lung patients from oxygen. It’s a new perspective and worth reading. Find it on page 56. The issue continues with Stephanie Richardson’s second article on beds for obese respiratory patients. Her second contribution begins on page 60. People aspiring to become registered sleep technologists would be well served to read Helen Sullivan’s piece on preparing to take the registry exam. It begins on page 62. John Salyer, another excellent writer, writes about adopting new technologies in the NICU. Find it on page 66. And speaking of John Salyer, managers will be interested to know that John’s new book, Managing the Respiratory Care Department has just been published. Veteran manager Mike McPeck, gives you his impressions of it on page 70. We continue with this issue’s equipment review, on Airgas’s Walk-O2-Bout, conducted by Dr. Paul Mathews. Find out what he thinks of it on page 72. Managers will find Dave Gourley’s piece on the JCAHO’s standards regarding communication and patient safety an important read on page 74. Dr. Douglas Gardenhire utilizes his Pharmaceuticals column to discuss adrenergic bronchodilators and their side effects. His column is found on page 76. Dr. Duane Johnson writes about the hot business issues in sleep medicine on page 78 and Dr. John Marini reminds us of four forgotten facts regarding respiratory mechanics in his article beginning on page 80. We finish up the issue with student, Brandon Censon’s paper on ARDS (page 83) and with Ken Capek’s hyperbaric medicine article on page 84. There’s a whole slew of new product highlights to check out on pages 91-94 and lots of new employment opportunities in our Employment section as well. Check them out starting on page 95.

In closing, let me say that we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Nashville. Try to make it, if only for a day or so and if you do go, please make sure to look me up so I can say hi.

Regards,
Bob Miglino RRT BSRT MPS - Publisher