

# Great Expectations

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It's possible that Canada's Olympic success had something to do with it. Or perhaps it was the hosting of the G8 summit, or even the relative stability of the Canadian economy. It may even be that we lowered our expectations a little. Regardless, 2010 turned out to be a much better year than most of us expected, and certainly better than the year before.

Better for Canadians, that is; however, as André Lalonde reminds us in his Guest Editorial,<sup>1</sup> in much of the world simply to survive through pregnancy, delivery, and the neonatal period is a blessing. Although Canada (in the form of its elected political leaders) has been at the forefront of calls for action to reduce global maternal mortality, such calls for action must be followed by practical steps and meaningful results, or they will indeed have been hollow statements. Within Canada, rates of maternal mortality are low enough that specific strategies to lower these rates further would be redundant; indeed, we now seek ways to reduce rates of severe maternal morbidity, one step removed from maternal mortality. In this issue of the Journal, Victoria Allen and members of the Canadian Maternal Morbidity Working Group explore ways to enhance national, rather than regional, surveillance of maternal mortality and morbidity,<sup>2</sup> as a means of standardizing data collection and refining preventative strategies. Much of the world can only dream of being able to implement strategies at this level. We must not forget how lucky we are.

It has also been a good year for *JOGC*, although we have definitely not lowered our expectations. The number and scope of submissions has continued to increase, and so have the sources of those submissions. We have had controversy, and we have had re-examination of established dogma. We have done our best not to be boring or predictable. We have listened to what our authors and readers tell us they are looking for in a journal like this, and we hope to provide new and useful features in the 2011 *JOGC*. Stay tuned!

I remain, as always, enormously grateful to the many people who contribute to the production of *JOGC* each month. To begin with, the authors who submit their work to *JOGC*

have a vast number of choices for publication, and we know that making the right choice is never easy. But Canadian authors who publish their work in *JOGC* communicate directly with their community, and authors from outside Canada who publish in *JOGC* are reaching a sophisticated (not to say good-looking) readership. I wish to express my gratitude to the authors who submit their work to us, and assure them that we will continue to do our utmost to smooth the path from submission to publication.

Our peer reviewers are an astonishing group, and it would be impossible for me to thank them enough. Regardless of the subsequent decision about publication, the comments from our reviewers—time and again—improve any manuscript and make it more likely to be published. Finding and keeping good reviewers is the prime challenge of any scholarly journal, and *JOGC* has struck gold. My sincere thanks to them all.

Similarly, the *JOGC* Editorial Board is a remarkable collection of people who have provided the Editor-in-Chief with wise counsel and a profound work ethic. Even better, they are fun to work with. I am very grateful to each of them.

Penultimately, *comme d'habitude*, I wish to thank the most energetic and hardest-working Editorial Team imaginable: that is, (in alphabetical order) Jane Fairbanks, Martin Pothier, Daphne Sams, and Vyta Senikas. Without them, *JOGC* is a collection of blank pages, but with them it is what you see—and more.

And finally, thank you to our readers, who are the primary reason for *JOGC*'s existence. Thank you for your commendations and your criticisms, all of which are taken seriously and appreciatively. Through this feedback, *JOGC* continues to develop and advance. We look forward to the next year, and I hope that 2011 brings you great professional satisfaction and personal happiness.

## REFERENCES

1. Lalonde AB. Global strategy for women's and children's health. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2010;32:1130-1.
2. Allen VM, Campbell M, Carson G, Fraser W, Liston RM, Walker M, et al. Maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity surveillance in Canada. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2010;32:1140-6.