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## From the Editor's Desk

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## From the Editor's Desk

Fresh from the Anaheim meetings in December, we come with renewed enthusiasm to communicating with our readers. Reaffirmed in our beliefs and faith through socializing with Catholic physicians and their families, one sees hope for the present and for the future. The annual meeting of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was well attended by many from the southwest portion of the United States. It also had its celebrities and dignitaries from the hierarchy, Catholic Hospital Association and allied groups. The sessions on the psychological and moral problems of the critically ill were particularly good and hopefully we will be able to provide our readership with these papers in the near future. The perennial problems which Catholic physicians and Catholic hospitals must face with the Hospital Directives in this pluralistic society were aired once more and seem no nearer to a solution. However, the discussions were lucid and authoritative. They helped to delineate the complexities of the problems while giving no concrete solutions. Perhaps this is the only intelligent way in which these problems can be handled for there are no universal rules which can be applied to each and every situation.

It seems clear that the medical-moral committee will play a large role in the daily operation of the hospital and the decision making process. These committees will use an inter-disciplinary approach. The various related medical specialities will join with moral theologians, psychologists and the pastoral medicine teams on a routine basis to discuss problems either prospectively or retrospectively. We will all learn a great deal from this approach.

Lastly, it is reassuring to us that there exists a great deal of harmony with the hierarchy, the Catholic Hospital Association and our medical colleagues. There is a mutual respect and confidence among all which can only be a harbinger of greater progress. It is also reassuring to know that the NCPG will be strongly represented at the FIAMC meeting in Barcelona in May, 1974 by Drs. Gino Papola and Charles Bauda in the role of President and Delegate respectively.

The *Linacre Quarterly* is looking forward to another good year and hopes to keep its readers abreast of the developments in the field of medical ethics. While controversy exists, there will always be disagreements. That is the nature of the beast. Keep your letters, comments and criticisms coming. In this way, I know we are being read and hopefully shedding some light upon the scene.

John P. Mulooly, M.D.  
Editor