

Report of the Editor: AACAP News

Stuart A. Copans, M.D.



In the process of turning over editorship of the AACAP News to **William Bernet, M.D.**, it's useful to review the News's current functions and to ask questions about its future role.

The AACAP News serves multiple functions: educating and communicating with the membership, recording AACAP history, promoting AACAP's meetings, and reporting on AACAP activities, and on the accomplishments and significant life events of members.

To help carry out its educational function, the News relies on a largely voluntary staff of columnists and committee chairs. This creates some challenges, especially when committees submit provocative or controversial articles. During my tenure, there was not a formal jury process for the newsletter, even though it serves as a significant educational source for AACAP members. There was not a jury process for columns, although in some cases, the articles can be highly influential and could establish clinical or legal standards.

AACAP staff members carry out many functions of the newsletter. Although we began the process of increasing the number of associate editors, the newsletter might benefit from an AACAP committee or work group to provide oversight, direction and manpower.

Discussions about creating an emailed version of the AACAP News have continued, as have discussions about creating an archive of News articles and columns on the AACAP website. When the articles go online, they should be supplements to the printed newsletter rather than replacements. The AACAP Membership would benefit from an emailed AACAP News, while continuing to receive six printed annual issues. The online news would consolidate all direct AACAP membership communications into one e-mail.



Immediate Past-President **Richard Saries, M.D.** honored **Stuart Copans, M.D.**'s tenure as Editor of the AACAP News at the Joint Annual Meeting.



Paramjit Joshi, M.D. shared her experiences helping victims of December 2004's tsunami in the May/June issue of AACAP News.