Learning the Teaching of Pediatrics
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We have long considered devoting an issue of Pediatric Annals to medical education and how it relates to the general pediatrician and other office-based providers. After my institution (Children’s Memorial in Chicago) recently hosted Dr. Larrie Greenberg, a leading expert in the field of pediatric education, as a visiting scholar for a few days, I became convinced that he should guest-edit an issue. I am delighted with the results in this issue.

The topics covered here are very wide-ranging, including education of patients in the office setting; integrating the roles of pediatric hospitalists and primary care physicians; pediatric education in office settings; utilizing microskills in office teaching with the presentation of several efficient and effective precepting methods; teaching in the community-oriented primary care setting; and issues related to teaching by academic general pediatricians.

The article about microskills in office teaching (see page 72) highlights some very interesting teaching techniques (precepting methods) that are very useful in a busy office or clinic setting, where the goals of teaching students or residents and sustaining patient flow can conflict. These include the “1-Minute Preceptor,” the “Aunt Minnie,” and “SNAPPS” (summarize the case, narrow the differential, analyze the possibilities, probe the learner’s understanding, plan a strategy, and select an issue for self-learning). I strongly suggest that all who have learners in the office read this carefully.

A provocative challenge is included in the thoughtful article by Scott Ship-
man of Dartmouth, titled “Attempting to Meet Our Nation’s Pediatric Workforce Needs” (page 89). Shipman challenges our field of pediatrics to re-think the education of pediatricians and their roles in society and to develop models that improve pediatric healthcare delivery, serve children better, and preserve the essence of the field of pediatrics.

The stamps shown here this month honor two individuals born in 1809, Charles Darwin and Louis Braille. Each was honored by stamps from many countries in 2009. Four Braille stamps were shown in Pediatric Annals in July 2009; a nice souvenir sheet of four stamps from Sao Tomé e Principe (St. Thomas and Prince), a two-island country and former Portuguese colony off the western coast of Africa, is shown in this issue (see page 51). For a summary of Braille’s remarkable life story (blinded at 3 years by trauma to one eye with sympathetic ophthalmia developing in the other eye), please see the July 2009 issue.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) was born on the same day as Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12, 1809) and, of course, was the English naturalist who proposed that natural selection was responsible for the evolution of all species of life from common ancestors, as he spelled out in his 1859 On the Origin of Species. This is considered one of the most important scientific books of all time.

Darwin’s bicentenary is honored here by the single stamp from Viet Nam and the two attached stamps from Uruguay (see page 51) that portray the evolution of monkey to man (on the left), and *H.M.S. Beagle* (on the right), the ship for his 5-year voyage around the world that famously included the Galapagos Islands. The four yellow stamps from the Pitcairn Islands portray some of the species Darwin studied, his book, and the *Beagle*.

**REFERENCE**


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