

FOREWORD

This issue and the next are among the most important, if not the most important, I have edited. The topic is efficacy of treatment. If there is an overriding question for which our entire clinical profession bears responsibility, it is: What is the effectiveness of our therapy?

In my four decades of professional life, I have been and continue to be impressed with the deep dedication of our clinicians to patient welfare. Perhaps we have been so certain of our helpfulness that it has only been in recent years that we have begun to measure dimensions of that help.

I have known for several years that I wanted Julie Atwood, Director of the Speech-Language Pathology Department at Massachusetts General Hospital to guest edit an issue. The idea for this topic was hers. It is what she proposed when we first began discussing a guest editorship. Her two issues will be landmarks; to my knowledge, no one before has assembled the evidence of efficacy for the broad scope of our profession's clinical responsibilities.

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