Editorial

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Published online: 29 March 2011
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In his contribution as the *Journal of Religion and Health's* first Editor, Harry C. Meserve wrote the following

The new technology of destruction has made it plain for all to see that superior force can no longer make us safe, indeed that further belief in it may spell the end of man and all his works ... Preachers or teachers, research scientists or clinicians, surgeons and psychiatrists, students of the individual man or of society, whatever we may be, we are all concerned with one common substance and goal: the human being and his growth into the fullest and best of his humanity. Never was it so important that men of science and men of faith learn from one another and work with one another. (*Journal of Religion and Health*, 1961, Volume 1, Number 2, pages 91,92).

Meserve's description of that era could be applied to our own. His words outline how he and the others who began the *Journal* saw its role as a place where serious minds could engage serious subjects in thoughtful and articulate ways. This was the era of the height of the Cold War with the construction of the Berlin Wall and the Cuban Missile Crisis even as it was the initial phase of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. The first issues of the *Journal* in the early 1960s contained articles whose subjects included explorations in depth psychology particularly as it relates to the work of Carl Jung, race relations, methodology useful for the dialogue between psychiatry and religion, and discussions of tensions in international relations. The *Journal's* scope at its inception was ambitious and its writing was superb. Its contributors were clearly committed to the creation of a dialogue among medicine, religion, psychiatry, the social sciences, and broader social concerns. Though scholarly in character, its articles embodied cumulatively a moral imperative. The *Journal* was, in fact, one of the first places where there was any sort of meaningful conversation between religion and psychiatry in post-World War II America.

That dialogue has advanced a long way since 1961–1962 when the *Journal* began its publication. From my position as the new Editor and Chief I am amazed and heartened at

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the scope, quality, and number of submissions reaching us every month. These submissions are of an international character. What the *Journal's* founders might not have imagined but would have welcomed are current essay submissions focused upon sophisticated quantitative and qualitative analyses of spirituality and health, studies regarding religion and health from the Islamic community and the wider world, and in-depth psychobiographical portraiture. These newer sorts of articles, each in its own way, embody the sentiment Harry Meserve expressed in his call a half a century ago for the attention of “all concerned with one common solution and goal: the human being and his growth into the fullest and best of his humanity.” This current issue of the *Journal of Religion and Health* is but one attempt to fulfill this abundant vision.