

Mayo Clinic Proceedings Legacy August 2014

Historical Editorial Board and Staff:

John L. Juergens, MD, MS

Editor-in-Chief, 1977-1981



Dr John L. Juergens, who was born in Mankato, Minnesota, on March 29, 1925,¹ was Editor-in-Chief of the *Proceedings* from 1977-1981. He introduced peer review as the standard practice and also added Letters-to-the-Editor as a regular feature, both of which continue to contribute to the quality and dissemination of information today.²

Dr Juergens studied at the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, and Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts. He received his BS in 1946, and his MD in 1949, after which he completed his internship from 1949-1950 at Minneapolis General Hospital. Dr Juergens subsequently opened a private practice in Belle Plaine, Minnesota, in 1950, and after serving in the US Navy for 2 years, he returned to his private practice there. He attended Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in 1953 and became a staff member at Mayo Clinic in 1956, consulting in cardiovascular diseases.¹

At the *Proceedings*, Dr Juergens is also credited with one of the historical journal cover re-designs that incorporated the well-known

bright orange color² and instigated the nickname, "the orange journal." Dr Juergens' great sense of humor can be readily seen from his part in celebrating the *Proceedings*' 75th Anniversary, where he quoted Mark Twain and included editors in the ranks of high criminals.² Dr Juergens has 40 publications listed on PubMed, three of which were published in the *Proceedings*.³ These covered ileal bypass, computer-based medical records, and retrieval and storage of data.⁴⁻⁶ He was at the forefront of the electronic age and led both the journal and Mayo Clinic in the progress of modern medical record-keeping.^{5,6} Dr Juergens retired from Mayo Clinic in 1990.¹

References:

1. Biographical data used by permission of the Mayo Clinic Historical Unit, Rochester, Minnesota.
2. Bayrd ED, Hayles AB, Juergens JL, Siekert RG, Palumbo PJ, Prakash UBS. Reflections from past editors. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2000;75:340-343. [http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196\(11\)64027-5/fulltext](http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(11)64027-5/fulltext). Accessed April 22, 2013.
3. PubMed search. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=Juergens+JL%5Bauthor%5D&cmd=detailssearch>. Accessed Dec 5, 2013.
4. Gomes MM, Bernatz PE, Kottke BA, Juergens JL, Tutus JL. Ileal bypass in treatment of hyperlipidemia: rationale and present status. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 1970;45(3):229-241.
5. Juergens JL, Kiely JM. Physician entry of cardiac physical findings into a computer-based medical record. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 1969;44(6):361-366.
6. Juergens JL, Rosevear JW. Storage and retrieval of clinical and laboratory data. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 1964 Nov;39:818-822.