

150 Years of the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*



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The *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* (AJOG), the oldest journal in the discipline,¹ is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2019.

Established in 1869, AJOG was known as *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children* (Figure) until 1920. Published by Elsevier, the “Gray Journal” has been the venue of numerous groundbreaking discoveries that have changed the practice of medicine and the lives of women and children^{2–4}, such as:

- the use of the Pap smear to screen for cervical cancer;⁵
- the first immunoassay for the beta subunit of human chorionic gonadotropin,⁶ the basis for all over-the-counter pregnancy tests still used worldwide (this advance allowed women to know if they were pregnant early, and in the privacy of their home);
- the visual display of cervical dilatation and station over time by Friedman,⁷ known as the partogram and used in labor and delivery units worldwide;
- the description of polycystic ovary disease by Stein and Leventhal;⁸
- the use of estrogens for post-coital contraception by Morris et al.;⁹
- the role of progesterone in pregnancy maintenance by Csapo;¹⁰
- the descriptions of the non-stress test,^{11,12} stress test,^{13,14} and biophysical profile;¹⁵
- the description of HELLP syndrome as a subset of patients with preeclampsia;¹⁶
- the criteria for the diagnosis of gestational diabetes by Carpenter and Coustan;¹⁷
- preeclampsia as an endothelial cell disorder by Roberts et al.;¹⁸
- preeclampsia as a condition in which there is exaggerated intravascular inflammation by Redman et al.;¹⁹
- the first *in vitro* fertilization of a human embryo by Edwards,²⁰ who was subsequently awarded a Nobel Prize.

From the Perinatology Research Branch, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development/National Institutes of Health/Department of Health and Human Services (Dr Romero), and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Iowa College of Medicine (Dr Bradley).

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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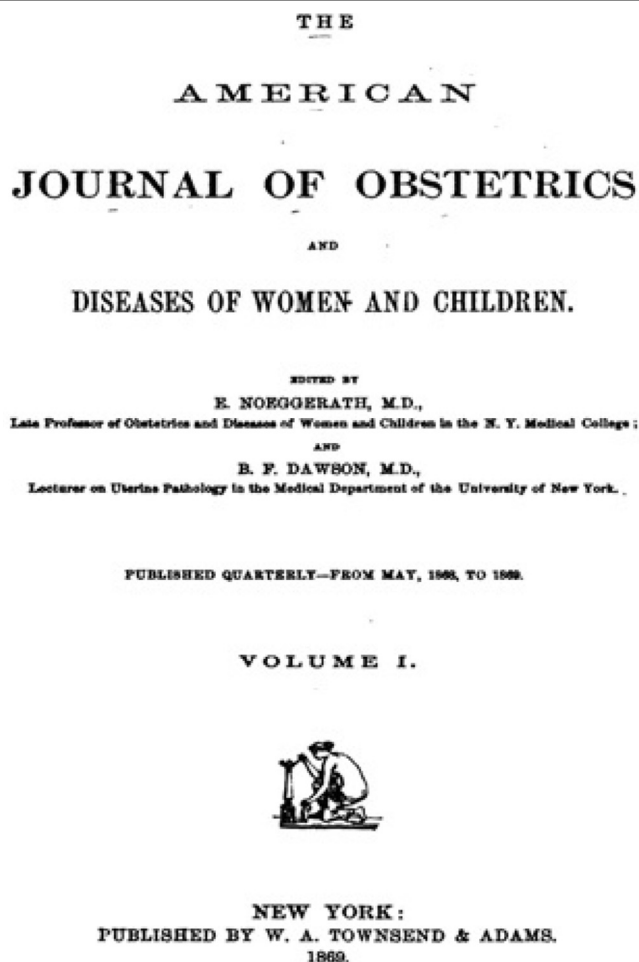
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FIGURE

The cover of *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children*, Volume 1, Number 1, 1869



Publication of *The American Journal of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children* spanned two centuries (Volumes 1-80; 1868-1919), succeeded by the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* in 1920.

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AJOG continues to rank at the forefront of the discipline among obstetrics and gynecology journals publishing original research, with a 2017 impact factor of 5.732. The Gray Journal has a strong social media presence, is available in universities and libraries worldwide, and the print version has a circulation of over 42,000 in the United States alone.

We are deeply committed to innovation and to improving the experience of our readers and authors.^{21–26} The Editors are profoundly grateful to our authors for trusting us with their work, reviewers for their gift of time, and readers for their support.

Throughout the course of this year, we invite you to join us as we celebrate this milestone sesquicentennial, continuing to bring high-quality, seminal studies into print and digital media, as well as featuring tributes to honor our prestigious 150-year past. ■

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