

---

## Editor's Note: The Quest for Truth

Feb 01, 2006

It's been an eventful year. Sri Lanka and neighbors still struggle to recover from a devastating tsunami, buoyed, at least for some time, by an unprecedented global outreach of compassion and aid. Suffering in Darfur and myriad other locales abounds, and the world largely, turns a blind eye. Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, and massive flooding washed away homes and lives along socioeconomic lines. Robotic vehicles roam Mars. NASA's Stardust Space Probe grabbed particles streaming from the nucleus of a comet almost 400 million kilometers from earth, and landed softly with them in the Utah desert after a seven year, 4.63 billion kilometer journey.

Medical ethics and complicated issues surrounding brain death and prolongation of life were brought to the foreground when the media converged around Terry Schiavo, an American woman who been in a permanent vegetative state for over fifteen years. A Korean scientist regarded as at the forefront of cloning research was revealed to have falsified his data, stunning

the scientific community and the eminent journals who published his work. Another media circus of biblical proportions ensued when the Prime Minister of Israel suffered an intracerebral hemorrhage, and countless physicians did not allow lack of expertise or knowledge of the case to stand in their way of providing scathing "expert opinions" on his medical management.

It is our privilege and duty to be at the eye of the storm. We strive to heal and to provide comfort. We have a responsibility to seek and provide answers in a logical and dispassionate way. We teach our students to be rigorous in their thinking and to employ the principles of evidence based medicine. Sometimes we must travel five billion kilometers to find it. Other times, truth may be found by looking in a mirror.

In Volume 6 of The Journal, we continue in our mission to assist the reader in his or her quest for truth and knowledge in emergency medicine.

Sincerely,

Steven Marc Friedman, MD, MPH

and

The Editors,  
Israeli Journal of Emergency Medicine