We join all of the members of the hypnosis community in mourning the passage of Erika Fromm and to marvel at both her life of incredible accomplishment and her heroic responses to injustice. Elgan Baker memorializes her and reminds us of Erika’s towering influence in the fields of hypnosis, psychoanalysis, and psychotherapy. He also brings us a living portrait of Erika’s objective, caring, critical, and nurturing influences upon generations of health care professionals. Jordan Zarren has penned a tribute to Erika from the Master’s level members of ASCH and SCEH. It was Erika who first opened the doors to the acceptability of Master’s level clinicians being admitted into membership—a revolutionary concept at the time.

It is always noteworthy when events appear to conspire to place common themes within a Journal issue that far exceed the planning capacities of the Editor. In this issue Jeffrey Feldman has contributed a most illuminating review of the contemporary literature on the neurophysiology of pain, affect, and hypnosis. He has also creatively synthesized a broad outline for research into the interconnections that exist among them. His article brings new scientific depth to our understanding of what so many of us experience clinically when we work with human suffering. In so doing he reaches for the scientific standard that Erika so valued.

Alex Iglesias also deals with the problem of suffering in end-stage terminally ill patients from the perspective of Existential Psychotherapy. The patients he worked with became amenable to medical interventions for pain and other complications once their existential fear of death, loneliness, and inability to find meaning in their lives had been engaged therapeutically. His emphasis is on human freedom to choose.

Then Ernest Rossi shares with us the courageous story of his own rehabilitation from a debilitating stroke. In this intimate and touching memoir he describes the devastation caused by the stroke, and he tells us how he utilized the principles of rehabilitation that had been almost lifelong for Milton Erickson. He also speculates about possible connections between enriching human experiences and possible neurobiological routes of healing. It is a human document every member of the hypnosis community will treasure.

In this new, longer issue of the American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis Andre Weitzenhoffer then follows his look at what was going on with direct symptom removal
in the nineteenth century with an examination of the literature on direct symptom removal in the twentieth century and shares some fascinating findings. He also makes recommendations for the safe removal of symptoms with hypnosis. Finally, Phillip Shenefelt reviews the literature on the treatment of acne excorée and tells us how he helped a patient with this rather unusual skin condition. As we review the complex content of this Journal, we cannot help but speculate how much the state of the field of hypnosis and the publication of scientific articles on hypnosis has been in some way influenced by the work of Erika Fromm.

On a final note, as this is my last edition as Editor of the American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis. I would like to thank those who supported me and my vision of integrating the Journal into the life of the Society: Daniel Brown, Elgan Baker, James Council, Jean Holroyd, Karen Olness, Stephen Pauker, David Spiegel, Maggie Phillips, D. Corydon Hammond, Olafur Palsson, Linda Broome Stetter, Arreed Barabasz, Stefan Fransson, Per-Olof Wickstrom, John Gruzelier, Jordan Zarren, Peter Bloom, Richard Kluft, and many, many others. “Drink deep the Pierian spring, or drink not at all.”