

Fall 2004

## **Dear Society Members and Journal Subscribers:**

On June 14-16, 2004, the American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, convened a major conference entitled "The Public's Health and the Law in the 21st Century: Third Annual Partnership Conference on Public Health Law." More than 600 individuals from all the 50 states and many foreign countries assembled in Atlanta, Georgia to engage in both plenary and concurrent sessions devoted to all aspects of public health and the role that law plays in promoting and sustaining a healthier population. The audience was truly multidisciplinary—and included lawyers, members of the judiciary, physicians, state legislative members, public health officers, nurses, bioethicists and academics.

The American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics acknowledges the creative work of the program planning committee, the plenary session speakers and the concurrent session presenters included in this supplement, and the dedication of the extraordinary conference faculty.

We also extend our special thanks to each of the following for their exceptional support for the conference and the conference proceedings: Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH, Director of the CDC; William H. Gimson, MBA; Ed Thompson, MD, MPH; Kathy Cahill, MPH; Deborah Jones; James Marks, MD, MPH; and other colleagues at CDC for their financial and technical support for planning the conference. Finally, we thank Judy Munson for serving as Editor-in-Chief of THE PROCEEDINGS and for her enthusiastic support for THE PROCEEDINGS and the conference.

Sincerely, Benjamin W. Moulton, JD, MPH Executive Director