



FEBRUARY 7, 1986

American Medical

NEWS

In New York

Dr. Blum asked to leave journal post

Alan Blum, MD, 37, avid anti-smoking activist and editor of the *New York State Journal of Medicine* for the past three years, has been asked to leave the position, New York State Medical Society officials confirmed Jan. 24.

Named as the new editor and director of the division of scientific publications by the medical society was Pascal James Imperato, MD, a former New York City health commissioner. Dr. Imperato has worked for the *New York Journal* since 1983 as a consulting editor and deputy editor. He also is a professor and chairman of the Dept. of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at New York's Downstate Medical Center.

Medical society officials called Dr.

Blum's dismissal "a management decision, entirely within the province of the executive vice president." George Lawrence, MD, the society's outgoing executive vice president, declined to discuss details of Dr. Blum's dismissal, saying only that "the decision had nothing to do with the editorial content of the *Journal*."

Dr. Blum's firing was announced formally after a closed executive committee meeting Jan. 23.

Dr. Blum, a former Fishbein Fellow for the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* who had served as the editor of the *Medical Journal of Australia* for a year before taking the position in New York, is widely known for his anti-smoking activism. He and several other

physicians started "Doctors Ought to Care" (DOC), a physician lobbying group that sought to counteract advertising of unhealthy lifestyles.

Medical society officials maintained that Dr. Blum's active anti-smoking stance and activities had "nothing whatsoever" to do with his dismissal. A society spokesman called members and officers "very supportive" of the *Journal's* anti-smoking position. The society recently banned smoking at its meetings.

Dr. Blum told *AMN* that the dismissal "was confirmed to me as a matter of editorial policy and direction. I was told more of a house organ rather than a scientific journal was what the society needed."



FEBRUARY 7, 1986

American Medical

NEWS

Physician asked to leave journal post

Alan Blum, MD, 37, an avid anti-smoking activist and the editor of the *New York State Journal of Medicine* for the past three years, has been asked to leave the editor's position, officials from the New York State Medical Society confirmed Jan. 24.

Named as the new editor and director of the division of scientific publications by the medical society was Pascal James Imperato, MD, a former New York City health commissioner.

Dr. Imperato has worked for the *New York Journal* since 1983 as a consulting editor and deputy editor. He also is a professor and chairman of the Dept. of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at New York's Downstate Medical Center.

Medical society officials called Dr.

Blum's dismissal "a management decision, entirely within the province of the executive vice president."

George Lawrence, MD, the society's outgoing executive vice president, declined to discuss details of Dr. Blum's dismissal, saying only that "the decision had nothing to do with the editorial content of the *Journal*."

Dr. Blum's firing was announced formally after a closed executive committee meeting Jan. 23.

DR. BLUM, a former Fishbein Fellow for the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* who had served as the editor of the *Medical Journal of Australia* for a year before taking the position in New York, is widely known for his anti-smoking activism. He and several other

physicians started "Doctors Ought to Care" (DOC), a physician lobbying group that sought to counteract advertising of unhealthy lifestyles.

Officials from the New York medical society maintained that Dr. Blum's active anti-smoking stance and activities had "nothing whatsoever" to do with his dismissal.

A society spokesman called members and officers "very supportive" of the *Journal's* anti-smoking position. The society recently banned smoking at its meetings.

Dr. Blum told *AMN* that the dismissal "was confirmed to me as a matter of editorial policy and direction."

"I was told more of a house organ rather than a scientific journal was what the society needed," Dr. Blum added.