

JFP: A new year full of opportunities



The Chinese characters for “crisis” embody 2 concepts: the top represents danger and the bottom, opportunity.

January 1 marks the end of my first official year as Editor of the JOURNAL OF FAMILY PRACTICE. And I feel as if I have been traversing this fine line between danger and opportunity—wanting to proactively change *JFP* to better meet your needs for immediate relevancy, while wishing to preserve its scholarly, evidence-based approach. Let me share a few observations about this experience.

First, I’m impressed with our readers! I am delighted how closely you scrutinize the journal, passionately highlight the shortcomings of the studies we review, and enthusiastically endorse most of the changes we’ve made. You are a practical lot: you want articles that are going to change your practice tomorrow. You want information to guide decisions, even when evidence is scant. To this end, we’ve expanded our coverage of Applied Evidence (from narrower systematic reviews, such as “Incontinence” in this issue of the Journal, to broader analyses of important topics).

Many of you voice reservations about evidence-based medicine. Some of you have been around long enough to know that today’s evidence (dogma?) is often viewed as tomorrow’s quackery (witness hormone replacement therapy) and question the reductionistic approach to evidence. You fear the EBM movement will limit *appropriate variation* in practice. You wonder who is paying attention to the art of medicine. You remain suspicious of attempts to standardize diagnosis and management. Our ongoing critical review of guidelines, discussions of controversies in EBM, and original research articles continue to challenge our assumptions.

Finally, some of you express worry about the pace of change and direction in which medicine is moving: concierge medicine, maintenance of certification, Medicare HMOs. You worry that our commitment to healthcare for all is vanishing, that stewardship of our communities is eroding, and that personal satisfaction is slipping. You see crises at every turn. Essays on the art of medicine and future articles on hot topics, such as hospitalists, will continue to address these controversies.

As we face the New Year, I trust we all will find the opportunities in the crises we face.

Jeffrey L. Susman, MD
jfp@famned.uc.edu

EDITOR

Jeffrey L. Susman, MD,
University of Cincinnati

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

• **Clinical Inquiries**

James Stevermer, MD, MSPH,

University of Missouri, Columbia

• **Applied Evidence**

Cheryl A. Flynn, MD, MS, State University
of New York, Syracuse

• **Original Research**

John Hickner, MD, MS, Michigan State
University, East Lansing

• **POEMs**

Allen Shaughnessy, PharmD, Harrisburg

Family Practice Residency, Harrisburg, PA

• **Photo Rounds**

Richard P. Usatine, MD, Florida State
University, Tallahassee

CONSULTING EDITOR

• **Clinical Inquiries**

Bernard Ewigman, MD, MSPH,
University of Chicago

ASSISTANT EDITORS

• **POEMs**

Linda French, MD, Michigan State
University, East Lansing

David Slawson, MD, MS, University of
Virginia, Charlottesville

• **Clinical Inquiries**

M. Lee Chambliss, MD, MSPH, Moses Cone
Family Medicine Residency, Greensboro, NY

Kevin Y. Kane, MD, MSPH, University
of Missouri, Columbia

Gary Kelsberg, MD, FFAFP, University
of Washington, Renton

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA, University
of Virginia, Charlottesville

Peter C. Smith, MD, University of Colorado
Health Sciences Center, Denver

Fraser G. Tudiver, MD, East Tennessee
State University, Johnson City

Jan P. Vleck, MD, University of Washington,
Olympia

David Weismantel, MD, MS, Michigan
State University, East Lansing

• **Reinventing Practice**

Gary N. Fox, MD, St. Vincent Mercy
Medical Center, Toledo, Ohio

• **Practice Alert**

Doug Campos-Outcalt, MD, MPA,
University of Arizona, Phoenix

Eric Henley, MD, MPH, University of
Illinois, Rockford

• **Guideline Update**

Keith B. Holten, MD, University of
Cincinnati

• **Language of Evidence**

Goutham Rao, MD, MPA, University of
Pittsburgh

EDITORIAL BOARD

Frederick Chen, MD, MPH, Agency for
Healthcare Research and Quality, Washington, DC

Larry Culpepper, MD, MPH, Boston
University Medical Center, Boston, Mass

John W. Ely, MD, MSPH, University of
Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City

Ted Ganiats, MD, University of
California-San Diego Health Outcomes
Assessment Program, La Jolla, Calif

Caryl J. Heaton, DO, University of Medicine
and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Brunswick

Fred Miser, MD, MA, Ohio State University,
Columbus

Kevin Peterson, MD, MPH, University of
Minnesota, Minneapolis

Kendra Schwartz, MD, MSPH, Wayne
State University, Detroit, Mich

Jack Westfall, MD, University of Colorado,
Denver

Direct editorial information and inquiries to:

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Health Professions Building, Department of
Family Medicine, PO Box 670582,
Cincinnati, OH 45267-0582. Telephone:
(513) 558-4021.

PUBLISHING OFFICES

Dowden Health Media, Inc.,
110 Summit Avenue, Montvale, NJ 07645.
Telephone: (201) 782-5735.
Fax: (201) 505-5890