



Editor's Notes

With the arrival of a new year (in the view of some, a new millennium) and a new journal volume, we are making some modest changes. This new section is one of them.

In each issue, in this space, I'll share with you relevant news about our journal, my comments on some aspects of the current issue and, possibly, my reflections on recent developments in health professions education. Put another way, this will be a place for me to speak with you about items related to our operation and our areas of focus. I hope you will find this to be of some interest and that you will let me know what you think about this idea. Please join me in something of a dialogue on these topics.

Some Other EfH Changes

In late 1998 our original journal publisher, Carfax, was absorbed into the Taylor & Francis Group (T&F). A series of gradual, behind-the-scenes changes have followed. With the current issue, our journal begins carrying the T&F imprint logo exclusively. T&F has been publishing peer-reviewed journals for more than two centuries. They currently publish more than 500 journals and over 1500 new books each year. The enlarged resources of T&F are making possible some important change in the way we prepare each issue of EfH. One of these changes will now enable readers and authors to be somewhat interactive for the first time in our journal's history.

Until now, all new material for each issue of our journal needed to be sent to our publisher a full four months prior to publication. As a consequence, we finalized each issue a little before the prior issue was distributed. So, if you sent us a Letter to the Editor based on your reactions to something you read in EfH, the soonest we could publish your letter would be in the second issue after the one to which you were reacting.

Happily, we now have a submission schedule that gives us some new flexibility.

A Chance to Get Published Quickly

An important consequence of the procedural changes we've just made is a special schedule for Letters to the Editor. From now on, we have approximately a month from the publication of any issue of our journal during which we can submit letters to T&F for inclusion in the subsequent journal issue.

So, if you have some ideas, questions, or challenges to share with your colleagues around the world, letter writing can be a quick and easy way to make a contribution (and get yourself published). We make decisions on publishing letters far more quickly than we can make decisions about regular manuscripts. Letters are especially effective for reacting to items that have appeared in the journal, but they can also be useful for contributing brief, preliminary reports on new ideas, projects, or developments.

Letters are limited to 250 words, with one illustration or table, and up to five references. If you find those rules too confining, please consider one of our other types of submissions, as described in our Instructions for Authors.

In This Issue

Our current issue, like others before, reflects the geographic, cultural, and professional diversity of our authors and readers. As I write this, I'm quite recently back from this year's annual meeting of The Network in Bahrain and freshly reminded of the rich variety of backgrounds, perspectives and experiences among those who attend these meetings, as is true among those who write for this journal. In our present issue we have contributions from five continents, on a wide range of themes.

Our Manuscript-Preparation Process

Prospective authors for our journal often request some insight into our decision-making and manuscript-preparation process. I will try to explain these processes, a little at a time, in several coming issues. Here, I'll focus on only one aspect: the adaptation of accepted submissions, when necessary, to our highly diverse readership. Virtually all papers we accept need to undergo some revisions prior to being ready for publication. One of the more common requests we need to make to authors of otherwise attractive papers is that they make some changes in recognition of the fact that our journal is read in more than 80 countries. A good many authors seem to assume that all their readers will be familiar with geographic locations or institutions in the author's country and will recognize the names of local people, regulations, or traditions the author considers commonplace.

Some Requests

If you are considering writing something for our journal, as we hope you are, please follow a basic guideline for all writing: have your audience in mind as you write. Do a careful review of your early drafts, asking yourself: have I made any assumptions that may not be appropriate for readers in other countries, in other cultures? In other words, try to make your presentation as generic and generalizable as you can. Try to find lessons to present that will apply in a wide variety of settings.

If you have any topics that you would like me to discuss in these pages or you have any comments on any aspect of our journal, we genuinely enjoy

hearing from you, whether as a Letter to the Editor that you want us to consider publishing, or as an informal note, via e-mail to my address below. And, as always, to submit any manuscript for our consideration, please first check our Instructions for Authors, at: <<http://www.the-network.org/efh>> or at: <<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/carfax/13576283.html>>

We look forward to hearing from you.

Hilliard Jason, MD, EdD
Editor, *Education for Health*
<HJason@mac.com>