

EDITORIAL

Planning for the Future

We would like to take this opportunity to share a few ideas on the direction of and vision for *Education for Health (EfH)*. We are very pleased with what we have inherited from past editors of the journal and applaud the work and efforts that have gone into the Network: TUFH journal from the early days through 2005, Volume 18.

New editorship offered an opportunity to revisit the journal mission. EfH was initially created as a journal for health professions educators, in alignment with the existing orientation of the Network. With the incorporation of TUFH into the Network in 2002, the mission and content of the journal no longer accurately reflected the mission of its parent organization. Accordingly, with input from the associate editors and the Editorial Board, we modified the mission to better reflect the value of the integration of health services and health professions education in health improvement. In this second issue as editors, we would like to share the revised mission statement of *EfH* with our readers:

Education for Health (EfH) is the journal of the Network: TUFH and is dedicated to the dissemination of work consistent with the organization's mission and objectives in international health. Specifically this focus is on linkages between academic institutions and other stakeholders which positively impact health and health care delivery. *EfH* encourages submission of manuscripts that:

- describe innovative models for the community-based education of health professionals, and research into the effectiveness of these models,
- describe models of community-based health care delivery and demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of these models,
- describe programs and research on collaborations between academia and health services, with the objective of community health improvement,
- describe and demonstrate multi- and interdisciplinary approaches to health professions education and service delivery,
- describe models and systems of education, research, and service delivery that link, and have implications for, both developing and developed countries.

We have also revisited the administrative guidelines and structure of the journal. In so doing, changes have occurred that may affect the future direction

of the journal content and format. These include setting up a policy of rotating Editorial Board membership, with three year terms for each member. This has been instituted to help ensure that we have a Board that can fully address the types and range of manuscripts submitted to *EfH*, as well as to promote fresh and new perspectives at the level of manuscript review.

In addition to our Editorial Board, a companion Operations Board is now being established. The major purpose of this board will be to provide input into the method and financing of journal publication. In the process of transitioning to a smaller, more cost-effective operation, it has become clear that expertise in both editorial and production/financial domains is required for optimal and effective journal operation.

Related to this, in 2007, the journal will move to an open access on-line publication. This is not an easy and straightforward transition, but one that will improve the distribution, accessibility, and utility of the journal.

In all of this, *EfH* remains committed to its emphasis on, and support for, international health and health professions education. It is not only desirable, but imperative, that advances in health professions education and the integration and provision of health services be studied and debated globally. *EfH* provides a leading forum for these activities. In 2007, we plan to introduce an interactive component to the journal in which readers can provide comments on the manuscripts and debate controversial issues. Open access publication will allow us to reach substantially more readers. In turn, we hope to advance knowledge of the many creative programs taking place throughout the developing and developed world for improvement of health professions education and the betterment of health.

Michael Glasser, Ph.D.
Margaret Gadon, MD, MPH
Co-Editors, *Education for Health*