

A Message from the Editor

This time of year is always about giving thanks, remembering the past, and making plans for the future. As we close out volume 126 of *Public Health Reports*, let's take a look back on the major themes from 2011 and preview 2012.

Several topics stand out, including health-care reform, H1N1, vaccines and immunizations, food safety, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Each issue of *PHR* this year included articles that addressed one or more of these emerging and ongoing public health concerns.

Health-care reform dominated the mass media, mostly with the opinion that the Affordable Care Act should be revoked or, conversely, expand its influence. Nonpartisan discussions of the Affordable Care Act were published in each issue of *PHR*, examining its implications for public health policy and practice. Special thanks go out to Sara Rosenbaum, editor of the *Law and the Public's Health* column, and her cadre of attorneys who wrote the articles that helped public health professionals understand this important and timely subject.

PHR was inundated with manuscripts covering various aspects of the H1N1 pandemic. Unfortunately, we were not able to publish all of them, and, for the most part, the topic has been well covered in the peer-reviewed press. However, lessons learned from the H1N1 crisis will inform preparedness for years to come. For this reason, we expect to publish additional articles on this subject next year, as they have broad public health implications. Vaccines and immunizations, which are always hot topics, were the foci of multiple articles throughout the year, as well as a special supplement published in September. We were pleased to announce a partnership between *PHR* and the National Vaccine Program Office, which will publish its articles exclusively in *PHR*.

Focusing on one national public health priority—health disparities—*PHR* published several articles that addressed health concerns of racial/ethnic minority groups. These articles served to influence public health

policy and practice. Tobacco use and its negative effects on health continue to be a national priority, and several articles in *PHR* focused on smoke-free laws and secondhand smoke. Look for these topics, as well as HIV/AIDS, multiple chronic conditions, and health issues related to immigrants, to be addressed in 2012.

As usual at this time of year, I would like to thank the dedicated members of the *PHR* Editorial Board; their names are noted on the masthead and are too numerous to mention here. However, each member plays an integral role in ensuring the success of *PHR*.

Not listed on the masthead, but also deserving recognition, are those who have served as guest editors for special supplements throughout the year: Captains Hugh Mainzer and Daphne Moffett, who guided the Healthy People in a Healthy Environment supplement; Dr. Phil Smith, who led the Assessment of Vaccination Coverage supplement; and Drs. Hazel Dean and Kathleen McDavid Harrison, who served as guest editors of the Data Systems and Social Determinants of Health supplement. These individuals and their guest editorial committees were a pleasure to work with and helped provide in-depth, thoughtful coverage of specific topics.

I am also pleased to announce that *PHR* has renewed its partnership with the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) to serve as our publisher for the next five years. Allison Foster, Louis Clement, and the rest of the ASPH staff provide a very professional image for *PHR*, and we are fortunate to continue our relationship with this organization.

If you have ever been involved in publishing, you know that the behind-the-scenes work is complex and deadline-driven. *PHR* would not be possible without the many professionals who served as peer reviewers and those who are involved in the production of each issue, all of whom are overseen very efficiently by our Managing Editor, Julie Keefe. Julie celebrated her 10th anniversary with *PHR* this year, and the journal would not run smoothly without her.

Lastly, I want to thank you, the readers of *PHR*. Without you, *PHR* would not exist.

Janice Huy, MS, RD, LD,
Captain (Retired), USPHS