

# A Message from the Editor

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With this issue of *Public Health Reports (PHR)*, we continue with our second installment of the new column, *Executive Perspective*. This month's column is authored by Captain Edith Clark, the Chief Dietitian Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps.

For those of you who are less familiar with the PHS Commissioned Corps, it is one of the seven uniformed services of the United States, along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The PHS Commissioned Corps is led by the U.S. Surgeon General and earns the same benefits as do the other uniformed services. Rather than fighting human enemies, the PHS Commissioned Corps fights the enemies of disease and injury.

In her role as Chief Dietitian Officer, Captain Clark provides leadership and coordination of the PHS dietitian professional affairs for the Office of the Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services. In the *Executive Perspective* column, she outlines several national initiatives focused on improving health through better eating, particularly for children and adolescents. According to Captain Clark, it is estimated that about 10% of adolescents eat the recommended servings of fruit and vegetables daily, and more than one-third of children and two-thirds of adults in the U.S. are overweight or obese. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and the National School Lunch Program are all efforts to increase fruit and vegetable intake in schoolchildren in hopes that healthy eating will begin early, continue through adulthood, and help prevent overweight and obesity over the course of the lifetime.

The role of prevention is also the subject of an

article by Bershadsky and colleagues, which explores the receipt of preventive health services by adults with physical or mental disabilities. The authors found that disabled adults who live in the family home were consistently the least likely to receive preventive health services as often as recommended. They conclude that community-based providers should organize inoculation opportunities and publicize free or low-cost health-care options to increase the use of preventive health care.

Another interesting article by Spaulding et al. describes a unique public-private partnership in Minnesota that established a statewide nurse triage line to address the health system needs related to the H1N1 influenza pandemic. The Minnesota FluLine offered the ability to quickly standardize and update information, provide a safety net for uninsured and underinsured populations, decrease the exposure rate for ill people and worried well people seeking in-person care, and provide information and emotional support to people concerned about illness. The authors estimate that the FluLine may have prevented nearly 11,000 in-person health-care encounters.

Finally, I would like to welcome several new members to *PHR's* Editorial Committee: William Aldis, MD; Joseph Bates, MD; Kimberly Hearn-Murray, PhD; Jan Lowrey, PhD; Philip Nasca, PhD; Philip Smith, PhD; and Betsy Thompson, MD. They join our returning members: Zygmund Dembek, PhD; Daniel Hoffman, PhD; Russell Kirby, PhD; Everett Lehman, MS; and Beth Resnick, MPH. Collectively, the Editorial Committee represents a wealth of public health knowledge and experience that helps elevate the quality of the journal.

Janice Huy  
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