

In This Issue: Building Blocks for Improving Practice

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Ann Fam Med 2014;98. doi: 10.1370/afm.1639.

Articles in this issue of *Annals* bolster complementary pathways to improving practice. These paths include new knowledge about what works in treatment of back¹ and neck² pain, optimizing drug treatment by knowing deadly risks,³ and factors affecting buprenorphine prescribing among trained physicians.⁴ Other paths include research that debunks a dietary myth,⁵ and identifies the highly variable course of patients after a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment.⁶

In the realm of practice organization, studies show us staffing patterns in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Primary Care Initiative,⁷ and the effects of medical assistants' career motivations and relationships with clinicians.⁸ *Annals* Journal Club features an article that synthesizes 10 building blocks of high-performing primary care.^{9,10} An essay on what it takes to successfully integrate behavioral health into primary care¹¹ complements a position statement published jointly by several *Annals'* sponsors in the Family Medicine Updates.¹²

We welcome your reflections at www.AnnFamMed.org.

In this issue, we wish to acknowledge two transitions, beginning with the retirement of Steve Zyzanski as Statistical Editor. Steve has been with the *Annals* from the outset, helping authors improve their work, helping editors make better decisions, and assuring rigorous review and clear presentation of data. He will continue as Consulting Statistical Editor.

Miguel Marino, PhD, has joined us as Statistical Editor. Miguel is Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the Oregon Health Sciences University. He received his PhD in biostatistics from Harvard University, where he completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the School of Public Health. He brings a strong interest in family medicine and primary care, and skills in statistical analysis of high dimensional correlated data, prediction, multilevel modeling, multivariate data, longitudinal analysis, and missing data methods. We are delighted to welcome Miguel to our team.

Managing Editor Claire Zimmerman has also retired. Many in family medicine know Claire. She has edited family medicine journals for three decades

and has been Managing Editor of the *Annals* for 11 years. Claire has brought outstanding judgment, skill, patience, and good humor to her work. She will continue to work with us as a part-time manuscript editor, so we will all continue to benefit from her presence.

Our new Managing Editor is Elizabeth Anderson, MLS. Beth has served as *Annals* Editorial Assistant since 2003, juggling the myriad demands of publishing. She has already put her first-rate organizational and editing skills to work in this issue. We look forward to working with Beth in her new capacity.

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