FROM THE EDITOR

Family Medicine for America’s Health: A Special Issue of *Family Medicine*
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In July of 2014, a small group of family medicine leaders met at an airport hotel in Chicago to launch a writing process to describe Family Medicine for America’s Health (FMAHealth). Only 2 months earlier, the boards of directors of our discipline’s eight organizations had voted to approve the broad goals of FMAHealth after more than a year of concerted work. Each person on the writing team had been intimately involved in this work and volunteered his or her time to capture core elements of the plan on paper. FMAHealth consists of a strategic plan and a communications plan. The writing group was asked to describe the strategic plan in detail and determined that it would require seven papers to do so. The first of these papers, a broad overview of the plan’s recommendations, was published in October 2014 by the *Annals of Family Medicine* in conjunction with the formal public announcement of FMAHealth at the American Academy of Family Physicians Annual Scientific Assembly. The remaining six papers are published in this special issue of *Family Medicine*.

From the beginning, the goal of this writing project was to provide an accurate description of FMAHealth as the starting point for a process rather than a final report. FMAHealth implementation is intended to be dynamic in its ability to adapt to rapid changes occurring in our health care system. The papers in this issue define broad goals derived from agreed-on principles. The methods used to implement these goals are a work in progress that must extend far beyond the leadership and core teams. In fact, the plan requires support from every family medicine organization, every family medicine practice, every residency, and every academic department, as well as the communities we serve and other health professionals willing to join us in the effort. FMAHealth is not intended to be a strategic plan for one specialty alone. It is meant to be a movement to reform the way health care is delivered in our country.

Many people deserve thanks and recognition for making this special issue a reality. In particular, Bob Phillips, MD, MSPH, provided key leadership by coordinating the writing teams and helped with the work of putting this issue together. Our journal’s editorial fellow, Christy Ledford, PhD, and our editorial manager, LeNeva Spires, played instrumental roles by assisting authors and coordinating the peer review process. Mal O’Connor, PhD, and Glen Stream, MD, MBI, provided vital guidance and financial support from the FMAHealth leadership team.

This special issue will have expanded electronic distribution that includes members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Board of Family Medicine, the Association of Departments of Family Medicine, the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, the North American...
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Primary Care Research Group, and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. It will also be shared with the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and the College of Family Physicians in Canada. Stacy Brungardt, CAE, Traci Nolte, CAE, Jan Cartwright, and the staff of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine stepped up as publishers of our journal to bring the project to life. We are also grateful to the authors of each of the six commentaries we have included in this issue. Their work creates a context for FMAHealth from a leadership perspective (Glen Stream, MD, MBI), a historical perspective (John Frey, MD), the perspective of other medical specialties (Norman Kahn, MD), the perspective of medical students and residents (Richard Bruno, et al), and the perspective of academic family medicine (Jeff Borkin, MD, PhD, et al, Mary Hall, MD, and Stacy Brungardt, CAE). Finally, our discipline owes a debt of gratitude to the authors and reviewers of these papers who spent hundreds of hours of their own time to capture the essence of a project of great historic importance to family medicine. Their efforts will be worthwhile if these papers stimulate discussion, debate, and engagement within and beyond the family medicine community. The work of making that happen lies with those who read the papers and commit themselves to reforming the way care is provided to the American people.

References