



Editor's Notes

Transition Time

After months of difficult deliberation, filled with ambivalence and flip-flops, I've made a most difficult decision: I've decided not to renew my contract with The Network as editor of this journal. My original 3-year commitment will come to an end with the completion of the next issue of our current journal volume.

For many years I've had an eye problem that makes the intensive work of being an editor more difficult than I had anticipated. Annoyingly, it has been getting slowly worse. Let me emphasize that my capacity to see, under usual conditions, is fine. I've got a neurological problem affecting my eyelids, not my eyes directly. This condition can be aggravated by intensive eye use, which is an inescapable occupational hazard when serving as a journal editor. I've struggled to get along, and I take medication that helps, but the medication becomes less effective over time. I've now had to acknowledge, reluctantly, that I can no longer continue this specific sort of work. But I can do just about everything else. I fully expect to continue writing, speaking, attending meetings, and otherwise intruding myself into the lives of people who care about health professions education for a good long time to come.

There is good news to share. The Network's Executive and staff have responded graciously and promptly to my decision. They began an immediate search for a new editor for *EfH* and, to all of our delight, Ronald Richards, PhD, who has been an active contributor to The Network for many years—and is well known to many of you—will become this journal's new editor, beginning with Volume 15 in 2002. So the issue after this one will be my last as editor. I will have more to say about Ron and about this transition in our next issue.

For now, I'm not going anywhere. I will serve as editor of the next issue, and I will attend the coming Network meeting in Londrina, Brazil (as I hope you will). So, to all of you who have known about this situation and have kindly written or called, and to anyone else who has thought about doing so, thank you so very much for your concern. Happily, there's not much at all to be concerned about... except how much I'll miss the regular contact I've been able to have with the staff and everyone else associated with this incredible organization known as The Network.

Our Journal's Look and Feel

If you are a regular reader of *Education for Health*, you've likely noticed that our publication underwent a somewhat striking physical transformation with our last issue. Beginning with that issue, our publisher made some changes in

both the paper used for the text and the card stock used for our covers. The net effect is a slimmer and lighter document. They have assured me that the paper they are now using is actually higher quality than, and that it is even “whiter” than, our previous paper. In their judgment, our journal continues to have “a very professional look and feel”. What do you think? We welcome your comments. Please send your e-mails to: <efh@network.unimaas.nl>.

In This Issue

As you have recognized, despite our thinner paper and cover (see above), this issue is thicker than most, and our Table of Contents reveals that we have significantly more manuscripts in this issue than we customarily accommodate. With delight, we welcome to this issue a set of interesting, important papers that were adapted from keynote presentations offered at the 2000 annual meeting of Community–Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH). CCPH is a US-based nonprofit organization founded in 1996 to foster health-promoting partnerships between communities and educational institutions. On their website <<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph.html>>, they state that they identify students, institutional leaders and community leaders as equal constituencies, and they serve as a welcoming bridge among the many government and foundation-sponsored initiatives in community-oriented health professions education. They describe their mission in this way: to foster partnerships between communities and educational institutions that build on each other’s strengths and develop their roles as change agents for improving health professions education, civic responsibility and the overall health of communities.

Although the eight CCPH papers in this special section are highly US-focused, I hope you agree that there are many lessons available among these contributions that are relevant anywhere in the world where health professions educators are seeking to be responsive to the needs of the communities that they serve.

As you will see, as part of our presentation of the papers from the CCPH annual meeting, we provide a guest editorial by Sarena Seifer and Piper Krauel, the two key leaders of that organization. Their thoughts and recommendations provide additional ideas and principles that we hope you find helpful, regardless of where you are based.

The rest of this issue, which is equivalent in size and coverage to any of our typical issues, provides our customary array of observations and insights on a rich variety of topics from multiple countries and regions. As always, we encourage your reactions. Your letters help guide what we do. We hope to hear from you, at: <efh@network.unimaas.nl>.

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