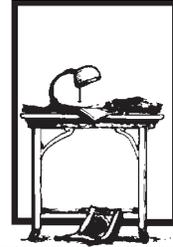


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## *EDITORIAL*



I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new editor of the *Journal of Pharmacy Teaching* (JPT). I am David Zgarrick, and I am a Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy. I have been at Midwestern since 1993 and have the pleasure of meeting many JPT readers through my activities in various pharmacy organizations. When Noel Wilkin and Mickey Smith approached me this past fall about becoming the editor of JPT, was honored to have been thought of in this regard and excited to accept this role.

When considering taking on the role of editor, I gave quite a bit of thought to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for JPT. The situation that kept coming to my mind was that of the entrepreneurial pharmacist who wants to own a successful pharmacy, but must do so in the face of large, well-established pharmacies. Having practiced at an independent pharmacy and currently teaching pharmacy marketing and management, I knew that emulating the competition would not likely lead to success. Just like an entrepreneur needs to establish niche markets to face larger competitors, JPT needs to look for ways to differentiate itself from the other successful, well established journals that publish in pharmacy education. Please let me share several of my ideas for how JPT might accomplish this:

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- My primary goal is for JPT to become the primary journal where pharmacy educators publish their innovations in the classroom, workshop and laboratory. Every year I attend poster sessions at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and other professional meetings and learn of the many great things that educators are doing with their students. Unfortunately, most of these innovations never find their way into the literature. I would like to encourage these and other innovative educators to submit for peer review *descriptive* accounts of what they are doing so that they can be published and others can learn from their experiences.
- Through the efforts of Mickey Smith, Noel Wilkin, and Bob Buerki, JPT has established itself amongst social and administrative scientists in pharmacy education. However, I feel that JPT can do more to reach out to others in pharmacy education, including basic scientists, pharmaceutical scientists, clinicians, and experiential education specialists. To this end, I am in the process of appointing Associate Editors to JPT who are widely respected within their disciplines. My ultimate goal is that every pharmacy educator who picks up a copy of JPT, regardless of discipline, will find at least one article which benefits their teaching.
- Having spent my academic career at a relatively new college of pharmacy, I know from experience that new colleges are rife with innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. I have enjoyed the series of articles written by Alan McKay and his colleagues at Shenandoah University about their experiences of starting a new college of pharmacy. I hope to continue to see faculty and administrators at new colleges of pharmacy look to JPT as a place they can describe their experiences and innovations.
- JPT is increasingly receiving submissions that describe opinions or generate discussion on topics relevant to pharmacy educators. While JPT has generally not published these submissions in the past, I plan to consider publishing pieces that lead pharmacy educators and administrators to think about and discuss the important issues that face the teaching of pharmacy in the future.

This issue of JPT would not have been possible without the support of a great number of people. First and foremost, I would like to recognize all of the scholars who contributed to this issue, either by submitting a manuscript or serving as a peer to provide a review. Not only do I appreciate their talents and dedication to advancing teaching in pharmacy, but I also appreciate their patience and willingness to work with

both Noel Wilkin and I during the editorial transition. Mickey Smith, Noel Wilkin and Bob Buerki have willingly shared their wisdom that comes from their past experiences with Pharmaceutical Products Press and JPT. A veritable army of folks at Haworth Press have literally coached me through the steps involved in becoming an editor and making this issue a reality. While there are literally too many people to mention (and I know that I would leave someone out), they each have my gratitude for the role which they play. Midwestern University has enthusiastically support my endeavors with JPT, for which I'd like to thank my Dean (Mary Lee, Pharm.D.) and department chair (Janis MacKichan, Pharm.D.). I would also like to acknowledge the administrative efforts of Bonnie Pearsall and Linda Love, who have helped me with many of the daily activities necessary to publish a journal. Finally, I would like to thank my wife Michelle, whose understanding and patience with my occasional preoccupations throughout my career and our marriage has been greatly appreciated.

The only reason that any scholarly journal exists is if its' readers and contributors find it valuable. I am anxious to continue to develop JPT into a resource that you will value, and look forward to hearing your ideas about how JPT can improve in the future. Please feel free to contact me at [jpt@midwestern.edu](mailto:jpt@midwestern.edu) to share your thoughts, ideas, and submissions to the journal. Not only will the journal benefit from our collective efforts, but more importantly, so too will the students and professions which we serve.

*David P. Zgarrick*