

The Permanente Journal Fifth Anniversary Issue



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Congratulations to all the talented people who edit, publish, and support *The Permanente Journal*. It was an honor to write a commentary for the premiere issue of the *Journal* back in 1997, and I am twice as pleased to share a few comments for this, your fifth anniversary issue. What an important milestone!

I am a strong supporter of *The Permanente Journal*, and allow me to tell you why. First, there are numerous physicians in the Permanente Medical Groups across the country who tell me that they are enriched by the articles found within its pages. The *Journal* has covered important issues such as Patient Safety, Quality, New Technology, Service, Research, Women's Health, Doctor-Patient Encounters, and more, with finesse. And, of course, the *Journal* publishes our physicians' important research studies and medical achievements so learnings can be shared across the Program.

Second, I believe we need to build more of a Permanente culture throughout all of our Medical Groups because at the end of the day, we are, at least philosophically, one Permanente Medical Group. *The Permanente Journal* helps us create and foster that culture. Back in 1997, I stated "the *Journal* will aim to bring our thoughts, practices, and accomplishments under one roof for everyone's view. As a result, these new ideas can spread across our Permanente Medical

Groups to bring better health to our members." I am pleased to say today that I believe this publication is doing just that.

Third, the *Journal* provides a platform for physicians to express themselves artistically, whether it be through writing, poetry, photography, or illustration. I've been impressed by the artistic talent of so many of our colleagues.

There are some critics of this publication. It's true — *The Permanente Journal* does cost money to produce, but I think it is a fine, worthwhile endeavor. And I've seen improvement in its content over the years. We all know that it is not the *New England Journal of Medicine*, nor is it intended to be. I think that *The Permanente Journal* is ultimately about caring deeply for our Program and for our physicians. The focus of this issue, physician worklife, demonstrates that caring.

I congratulate Tom Janisse, MD, the editor-in-chief, the editorial board, and the production staff on its fifth anniversary and wish *The Permanente Journal* continued success for many years to come. ❖

A Worthy Program

It has always been our opinion that a medical care program worthy of perpetuation, in addition to being economically sound, must provide teaching, training, and research, all so necessary for the maintenance of high quality care.

— Sidney Garfield, MD, *Second Annual Report of the Permanente Foundation, January 1945*