

A Voice of Permanente



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Editor-in-Chief

In August of 1997, *The Permanente Journal* published its first issue. With this August 2002 issue we celebrate our fifth anniversary! In the beginning, the physicians, clinicians, and staff of the Editorial Team, Advisory Board, and Review Board all aspired to become “A Voice of Permanente.” From the Permanente Medical Groups across the country, individual physician voices spoke into my first editorial: “Permanente is a group with tremendous resourcefulness, creativity, and care-full-ness in meeting the challenges ahead, but we need to share amongst ourselves much more effectively and efficiently.” “This journal can showcase our best work and practices, strengthen the connection among groups, and influence the direction and nature of change in the practice and business of health care.” “I want to make a real contribution.” “Kaiser Permanente has an obligation to promote research into clinical practices, set the standards, and communicate through an organ such as

the journal.” In the 20 issues of *The Permanente Journal* published, we have heard from over a thousand of our organization’s authors, researchers, poets, and painters. I believe we have become “A Voice of Permanente.”

How do the voices of *The Permanente Journal* contribute to the future of health care? The National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine published its second report in March 2001, *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century*.¹ This report focused on the broader variations and deficiencies in medical practice today. Their recommendations included: multidisciplinary, team-based patient care; an infrastructure of information technology; a focus on a limited number of common, chronic conditions; and evidence-based care processes supported by automated clinical information and decision support

systems. The Permanente Medical Groups have those components in place now. *The Permanente Journal*, as a direct expression of that medical care in an integrated service delivery model, represents a unique niche in American medical journals. We select journal articles to disseminate new advances and contributions to clinical medicine and to elucidate the processes that embed those contributions into medical practice and the health care delivery system.

I would like to thank every person who had even the smallest part to play in *The Permanente Journal* living for five years. It took the vision and will of the Regional Medical Directors and our Executive Publisher, Jay Crosson, MD, to approve and fund the journal, the expertise of the Editorial Team to create the journal, and the authors and artists to give it substance and value. Ultimately, our greatest appreciation is for our readers, who transfer knowledge into practice to enhance the health and well-being of both our members seeking care and the people of our organization delivering that care.

For the future, I can think of no more fitting way to close than I did in the first issue: “Members of the Advisory Board, Review Board, and Editorial Team have a responsibility to carry forward the energy, enthusiasm, commitment, dedication, long-standing effort and work, aspirations, and dreams of all physicians, clinicians, and Health Plan experts so invested in Kaiser Permanente.”² ♦

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Reference:

1. Institute of Medicine, Committee on Quality of Health Care in America. Crossing the quality chasm: a new health system for the 21st century. Washington (DC): National Academy Press; 2001. Available on the World Wide Web (accessed June 4, 2002): www.nap.edu/catalog/10027.html.
2. Janisse T. A Voice of Permanente. Perm J 1997 Summer; 1(1);2-3.