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Why Patient-Centered?

Dennis J. Baumgardner

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Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews (JPCRR) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal whose mission is to communicate clinical and bench research findings, with the goal of improving the quality of human health, the care of the individual patient, and the care of populations.



Why Patient-Centered?

Dennis J. Baumgardner, MD, Editor-in-Chief

Lest we lose our way...

Several years ago, I was attending a conference in Brazil. A distinguished group of PhD and physician researchers were presenting their work – a mixture of basic science, animal studies, clinical trials, and epidemiologic surveys. Angela Restrepo, PhD, an eminent scientist, and for decades the matriarch of research on paracoccidioidomycosis (a vexing South American fungal disease), was reviewing the conference presentations. She remarked, with displeasure, how many of the presentations lacked a simple statement explaining how the just-concluded work would potentially benefit the care of the patient.

Here I was, a primary care physician, a continent away from home, being schooled in the importance of linking all research and scholarly activity to the reason we are all in this business – improvement of the health and well-being of our patients. Admittedly, I was one who did not always explicitly make this link when presenting my own investigations. Yes, even the most seemingly esoteric research may become highly relevant when a patient asks: “why is this deadly fungus in my yard?” or “why did I get this particular type of cancer?” or “why did this medication not work for me?” Or when a parent asks, “why does my child get so many sore throats?” Indeed, we should be able to make these links when publishing or presenting our research.

This lesson remained with me long after the conference in Brazil. I decided that if I were ever in a position to influence a venue for presentation of research and scholarly activity, contributors would be asked to make the link between their work and the care of the patient, except in the most immediately obvious circumstances. The mission of the *Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews (JPCRR)* reflects this philosophy. Typically this occurs in the form of a (hopefully soon-familiar) statement in the concluding paragraph of each manuscript.

Besides the concluding paragraph stating the benefit to patient care, what else is different about *JPCRR*? We are multi-specialty and multidisciplinary in the context of basic research, translational research,

thought-provoking editorials, and narrative and systematic reviews. We accept compelling patient stories and essays that inspire the continued best practice of medicine. With a rigorous and thoughtful peer review process, and a responsive editorial staff, we are proud to deliver a publication similar to other quality journals.

In developing the inaugural issue, and all of those issues yet to come, we appreciate the thoughtful and enthusiastic support of Aurora Health Care and Aurora Health Care Foundation. As Drs. Nick Turkal and Randall Lambrecht have wonderfully detailed the concept of this



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new journal, we are especially grateful to the Robyn Temkin Memorial Fund and the family of Robyn Temkin for their generous support of this endeavor. In addition, I would like to personally thank our editorial staff and the editorial board members. My sincere thanks is also extended to our first guest editor, Dr. Michael A. Thompson, who provided excellent oversight, and an editorial overview of the submissions for this theme issue on melanoma. Of course, I am not going to comment on my own article, but who could resist being in the inaugural issue? I am also very grateful to Dr. John J. Frey III for his valuable mentorship in my new role as editor.

A successful medical practice exists because of strong relationships between physicians and their patients. Just as we medical professionals humbly thank our patients for the privilege of caring for them and their families, we at *JPCRR* thank our contributors, our reviewers, and especially, the readers. This journal is for you!