

## ***Editorial Comment***

As of this issue, we have assumed editorial responsibility for the Pharmaceutical Economics & Health Policy section of *Clinical Therapeutics*<sup>®</sup>. We plan to build on the solid foundation developed by David Alexander Sclar since the section's launch 7 years ago. His efforts created a valuable forum for the publication of health services research specifically targeting the pharmacoeconomic, health outcomes, and policy implications of drug therapy. We look forward to a challenging and rewarding experience.

As with most transitions, some changes will occur. Our goal is to maintain and strengthen the rigor and relevance of published manuscripts. We also plan to enhance the emphasis on policy-related research. This is of particular interest, since the rapid publication process allows dissemination of time-sensitive information that can be used to inform decisions regarding policy development or evaluation. Along with full-length original research reports, we welcome submission of brief reports and commentaries on topics that are timely or provocative. There are many pharmaceutical policy issues for which empiric inquiry and informed debate are conspicuously absent from the peer-reviewed literature.

We will use editorials to highlight particularly compelling and/or controversial findings and to address other substantive issues that we believe warrant discussion in this journal. In addition, we will be soliciting articles on specific topics for the Contemporary Issues subsection. These articles will focus on significant issues facing  $\geq 1$  of the medication-use stakeholders: patients, providers, payers, manufacturers, and regulators.

As addressed in its Scope of Inquiry, this section features articles on economic evaluation, health outcomes, and policy issues related to drug therapy. Our agenda includes seeking high-quality research manuscripts in each of those 3 broad areas. Specific research topics that are being targeted for publication include:

### Economic evaluation

- Rigorous claims data analyses with theoretical background
- Validations and applications of economic models
- Methodologic advancements (eg, productivity measurement)
- Impact of compliance on cost-effectiveness
- Critical assessments of economic evaluations within therapeutic classes

### Health outcomes

- Development and validation of health outcomes assessment tools in the evaluation of pharmaceutical interventions
- Longitudinal analyses of health-related quality-of-life assessments in pharmaceutical trials
- Studies addressing the interface between pharmacoeconomic evaluation and quality-of-life assessment

### Policy

- Evaluation of utilization-management strategies (eg, formularies, 3-tier copays)
- Evaluations of clinical programs (eg, compliance, therapeutic switching)

- Evaluations of the impact of direct-to-consumer advertising
- Studies that provide insight into physician prescribing behaviors
- Evaluations of physician prescribing patterns in large, diverse populations
- Examinations of the cost of noncompliance
- Examinations of the pharmaceutical benefits management industry

We are honored by the opportunity to assume editorial responsibility for the Pharmaceutical Economics & Health Policy section of *Clinical Therapeutics*<sup>®</sup>. However, the responsibility for the success of the section does not rest solely on our shoulders. We need your help in making the section the best it can be. Please contribute by submitting your best manuscripts and, when asked, provide us with timely and constructive reviews. We look forward to working with you.

Stephen Joel Coons, PhD  
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Section Editors