

Editors' Note
Maria Gilson deValpine, (about to not be) VJPH Editor

We have a robust issue for all of you—authors and readers—who have been waiting and wondering, whatever became of the early Spring issue of the Journal? You may recall that yours truly tried hard to retire last issue and we lost our beloved Jen Jones to more, not less work. Marilyn Bartholmae remains our stalwart and rock, the last woman standing as I will indeed successfully retire after this issue. In fact, the Journal itself will be taking a hiatus as our new President, Ben Barber, and our new VPHA Board re-envision and update the Journal. We've had a couple of great years on the new Digital Commons platform and much fine scholarship published, now it's time for the Journal to take its next step!

Getting to now took a great deal of time, but we have a great, big issue, again full of fine scholarship and commentary for you in this last, pending future, iterations:

Shillpa Naavaal took advantage of our not well used Notes from the Field column to bring us an important work on distribution and characteristics of dentists and related professions.

Tammy Kiser and friends at Valley Urgent Care, with the local Cooperative Extension Agency, and Future Farmers of America nearby chapter, collaborated in a unique project. Implementing Kentucky-developed Farm Safety Dinner theaters, the groups successfully addressed health and wellness issues among Rockingham County's diverse agricultural community, with plans to expand this creative Community Based Participatory Research Project. Congratulations on a successful pilot.

Using a related strategy, Anne-Marie O'Brien and colleagues developed an understanding of community engagement in health-related research. Looking at barriers and facilitators to collaborative research, authors found—we assume to their pleasure—that there are many facilitators and not too many barriers to community engagement in health research.

Betaneya Daniel and co-authors discovered significant differences in the way immigrants and U.S. born patients experience the health care system, with local applications in Virginia. Not surprisingly, efforts need to be made to understand and better serve immigrant patients and to adapt the U.S. health care system and practices to meet the needs of underserved populations.

Emily Potter and colleagues waited patiently to get their health equity, land use, and water policy manuscript published. Thank you for persisting, it turned out beautifully!

Our previous VPHA President, Ashley Tharpe, and colleagues offers a very nice piece on mentoring new public health professionals, and our current President and policy wonk, Ben Barber, wrote a quick brief on "extreme" public health policies. Failing to pass the legislature in Virginia, we are all relieved that public health has advocates in the legislature, but Ben warns us there's more to do, in Virginia and across the nation.

My very best to our patient authors—past and present--busy reviewers, VJPH Board and Officers, and especially, to Marilyn. Onward!

Maria