

Preface



Robert P. Dellavalle, MD, PhD, MSPH

Guest Editor

This odyssey began with an email from Bruce Theirs asking me to consider editing a special issue of *Dermatologic Clinics* dedicated to dermatoepidemiology. We quickly decided to broaden the focus to include public health, making this the first issue of any *Clinics of North America* series specifically devoted to the topic of public health. I solicited potential articles from colleagues and members of the dermatoepidemiology list serve maintained by Martin Weinstock at Brown University (Providence, Rhode Island). Articles were submitted and peer reviews done in the fall of 2008. Reviewers were given the option of revealing or not revealing their identity to the authors and to our readers. I thank the peer reviewers listed below for their attention to detail, and for the hundreds of comments they offered that have vastly improved this issue: Adam Asarch (two articles), Maged Kamel Boulos, David Buller, Avanta Collier, Lori Crane (three articles), Guy Eslick, Rod Hay, Whitney High, Alexa Kimball, Kristie McNealy (two articles), David Norris, Rachael Simmons, Hywel Williams (two articles), and others who remain anonymous.

Although hot-button issues in both fields are discussed, the articles, in the end, treat dermatologic public health topics more than epidemiology. Alireza Khatami and Miguel San Sebastian lead off this issue discussing the community health perspective on skin disease as a neglected public health problem. Angela Sawaia and I next address disparities in dermatologic health care. Bridgit Nolan and Steven Feldman review behavioral

study topics particularly relevant to dermatology: tanning addiction and medication compliance. Adam Asarch and colleagues summarize the principles of sound survey research. Karl Vance and colleagues describe the potential of social website marketing for dermatologic public health messages. Marlies Wakkee and Tamar Nijsten review the increasing importance of comorbidities in dermatologic research. Raja Sivamani and colleagues examine ultraviolet tanning public health messaging. Linh Lu and colleagues make the case for increased nickel regulation to reduce the most common cause of allergic contact dermatitis. Yakir Levin and Erin Warshaw review the emerging field of tele dermatology. Heather Hoch and colleagues expose the growing influence of health care consumers on dermatology. Luigi Naldi and Liliane Chatenoud describe registry research examples, opportunities, and pitfalls, and provide guidelines for the reporting of this type of research. Rachel Simmons and colleagues describe online dermatology resources. Christina Neslon and colleagues suggest guidelines for manuscript and publication review. And, lastly, Marianne Berwick and colleagues outline the epidemiology and public health issues of one of dermatology's gravest problems—melanoma.

This issue of *Dermatologic Clinics* also initiates one of the first uses of podcasts¹ by a dermatology journal. I thank Chis Mavergames and Mike Clark for teaching an exciting workshop on the importance of this new technology at the Cochrane

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