

A Note from the Editor

AS THE NEW EDITOR OF THE *MILBANK QUARTERLY*, my central goal will be to maintain its standing as one of the best journals in the field. I will continue to publish the type of extended scholarly analyses that has made it unique among health policy journals. I also will maintain its interdisciplinary character. The *Quarterly* welcomes and encourages submissions from any discipline that can illuminate health policy issues. Furthermore, we welcome research, analyses, and commentary from researchers, clinicians, and policy makers. In this issue, for example, we have asked Dr. Fitzhugh Mullan, director of the Bureau of Health Professions, to comment on Dr. Gordon Moore's article on the declining status of the general physician. Increasingly, we will attempt to stimulate the kind of discussion and debate that crosses disciplinary and professional boundaries. We no longer will publish supplements, but will expand our regular issues by commissioning articles and including papers of special interest.

Because the fields of health services and health policy research have changed rapidly in recent years, it is necessary to adapt if we are best to serve our readers. Another goal, therefore, is to make the *Quarterly* as timely and responsive as possible to major events and trends, given the constraints of a scholarly journal. This will involve reducing the time between article submission and publication and ensuring that the *Quarterly* appears on schedule. Also, as health services and policy issues have become increasingly diverse and complex, we conclude that it is not possible to be all things to all people. Thus, we will refine and articulate our mission over the next year or so. As a publication of the Milbank Memorial Fund, a major part of the *Quarterly's* mission is to facilitate, and make readers aware of, the work of the Fund. In a subsequent issue, Daniel M. Fox, publisher of the *Quarterly* and president of the Fund, and I will address these issues in more detail.

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