

In this Issue

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The schedule of themed issues for the Delaware Journal of Public Health is set to close up to a year in advance of the publication date. Like many others, the Journal was impacted by COVID-19, and we utilized the opportunity to publish this two part issue on “Current Research” with a focus on the groundbreaking research in our community.

Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic started, we convened with this issue’s Guest Co-Editors Mia Papas, PhD and Steven Stanhope, PhD to focus on research- of all sorts- specific to the novel coronavirus. They did a masterful and comprehensive review of Delaware research that covers the depth and breadth of public health, population health, clinical research, and interventions - and we thank them for their effort. The final title of this two part issue dynamically captures what it is all about:

“FROM CELLS TO SOCIETY: RESEARCH IN THE TIME OF COVID-19”

We still included other research articles submitted to us - a validation that while COVID-19 is the big news, other work continues. You’ll read about that work in part 2 of this issue.

To provide context to this issue, consider the 10 Essential Public Health Services which describe the public health activities that all communities should undertake:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. Assure competent public and personal health care workforce
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population- based health services
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

There is much anticipation and hopefulness around a vaccine. We wish to point out that community spread has been driven to nearly zero in several settings around the globe with existing technologies (masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, testing & contact tracing). It is worth mentioning that if the numbers in the US were like Delaware’s, we would have cause for optimism. This is not schadenfreude; just an observation that individuals committed to behavior

change, with strong leadership from health systems, the state, and numerous partners can make a difference, even against a seemingly intractable pandemic.

COVID-19 has truly activated and tested all 10 essential services above, on a global and local level. We hope this two part issue will illuminate work in Delaware and our neighboring states- a major part of what we hope will be a national success in achieving better health for all.

Your feedback is welcome!

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