

The DJPH Experience

Timothy E. Gibbs, MPH

Publisher, Delaware Journal of Public Health

This is the final issue of the Delaware Journal of Public Health that I will be honored to publish. My colleague, Kate Smith, MD, MPH, NPMc, steps into the role of executive director on January 1st, 2024, and she will assume the role of publisher going forward. As such, I reflect for a moment on the “DJPH Experience.”

In 2015, I recommended to the Board of Directors of the Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Association that we undertake to publish a peer-reviewed journal focusing on public health issues in Delaware. With strong support from Dr. Omar Khan, then a board member, and the full board of directors, we published the first issue in September of 2015. I distinctly remember worrying about whether there would be enough content to support a new publication, and nine years later my worries have proved baseless. On a couple of occasions, we have had so much content that we added a sixth issue just to maintain a manageable publication size – a good problem to have.

The purpose of the Journal remains the same today as at its founding:

The aim of the journal is to stimulate debate and dissemination of knowledge in the public health field in order to improve efficacy, effectiveness and efficiency of public health interventions to improve health outcomes of populations.

Published five times a year, the Delaware Journal of Public Health considers submissions in all aspects of public health with a geographic focus on Delaware and surrounding states. From time to time, articles of a national and international nature are included as well at the discretion of the editorial board.

The Journal really hit its stride when we became an accepted PubMed listed publication – an enormous but gratifying effort, especially as we were initially not approved (we were “too small”). Dr. Khan and I mounted a vigorous defense, and pointed out that some cities smaller than Delaware had PubMed indexed journals, so, why not us? In the end, they agreed and reversed their decision.

Why did I think this was a good pursuit? It was simple:

- 1) Delaware has stories to tell that can be of value to others aiming to replicate and build upon work.
- 2) Delaware is an ideal mix of rural, urban, and suburban areas – a laboratory of sorts for policy work, intervention, and research.
- 3) Delaware practitioners of public health and medicine deserve to be published just as much as academics from major cities and research centers.
- 4) The professional and general public deserve to be informed of what is happening in their state, especially at a time when traditional media focuses elsewhere.

I look forward to seeing where the Journal goes in the future under Dr. Smith's leadership, and wish all readers good health and wellness.

Copyright (c) 2023 Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.