



Editorial

A place to meet

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Editor: a person employed by a newspaper, whose business it is to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to see that the chaff is printed.

Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915)

The June issue of *Canadian Family Physician (CFP)* provides me with my first opportunity to introduce myself to readers of the journal since I became the Scientific Editor in May, and to acknowledge the important contributions of outgoing editor Dr Diane Kelsall. In her 2.5 years at *CFP*, Dr Kelsall moved the journal forward in the electronic age of medical publishing, introduced several new and popular series to the journal (including a series of Clinical Reviews on complementary and alternative medicine treatments, Veteran Health Files, and the highly read RxFiles), substantially increased the number of family medicine research submissions to the journal, and mentored many authors through the process of getting their work published in *CFP*. Dr Kelsall has joined the editorial staff at the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, where she will continue to be an important and effective voice for family physicians. I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank Dr Kelsall for her excellent work at *CFP* and to wish her the very best in her new role.

Building blocks

At *CFP* I am looking forward to building on the contributions of Dr Kelsall and her predecessor, Dr Tony Reid (who, dare I say it, taught me when I was a family medicine resident). Even before accepting the challenge of this position, I realized that ours is a journal that serves many different constituencies across the country, including full-time community-based family doctors, academic family physicians engaged in teaching, research, and administration, as well as family physicians engaged in focused areas of practice.


Given the trajectory of my own career as a family physician, I hope to be able to shape the journal so that it

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reflects the interests and needs of its diverse readership. I continue to practise family medicine (including house-calls) 2 days per week at Women's College Hospital in Toronto, Ont, where I have been a family physician since 1994. It is my hope that this will keep me grounded in the needs of readers who are in full-time clinical practice. Since I joined Women's, I have also been involved in teaching family medicine at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and I continue to enjoy working with both medical students and residents in my family practice clinics. Over the past decade I have also been heavily engaged in family medicine research, in which I have had a particular interest in understanding the role of family physicians in providing care to the elderly. In my research career I have been fortunate to work with and to become familiar with the work of many excellent family medicine researchers across the country, and I hope that they will look to *CFP* as a place to continue to publish their fine work. Last, but not least, I am a partner to a woman who is a busy professional herself; with 3 very active children, work-life balance and well-being is a frequent topic of conversation and a work in progress. I therefore hope to continue *CFP's* tradition of reflecting in its pages the existential challenges and the rewards of being a family physician in Canada.

Where's the beef?

Elbert Hubbard, who penned the sardonic quote with which I began this editorial, was an American writer, publisher, artist, and philosopher who edited and published 2 magazines, *The Philistine* and *The Fra*.¹ *The Philistine*, a satirical magazine, was bound in brown butcher paper. Hubbard quipped that the cover was made of butcher paper because "There is meat inside."

I hope that under my stewardship at *Canadian Family Physician*, readers will find meat inside. 

Competing interests

None declared

Reference

1. Wikipedia [encyclopedia on the Internet]. *Elbert Hubbard*. Los Angeles, CA: Wikimedia Foundation, Ltd; 2009. Available from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbert_Hubbard. Accessed 2009 May 7.

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