



May 2021

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The *Khan*versation



The times, they are a-changing, so said Bob Dylan (Zimmerman). He was right of course, and nowhere do we see this as much as in health care. Indeed, this pace of change is brought about by the changes we must adapt to.

While the only constant is change, a related truism is that the change itself is never quite the same flavor. It used to be a different type of environmental milieu we were reacting to: political change requiring agility in payor systems; societal change requiring adaptations in customer service. Yet now, massive challenges have appeared in the form of the worst global pandemic in our 100+ year memory.

The Academy has evolved as well, through several key features. In valuing our history as much as our future, we re-imagined what tomorrow's Delaware Academy of Medicine looks like: one which delivers on our vision of complementary, unified medicine and public health. One in which ALL health professions feel welcome. One where learners (whether new or lifelong) feel especially at home.

We re-presented our heritage, beyond just historic portraits but through technological means, to animate and contextualize that history. Thanks to all of you, we increased our relevance and our service to the community, and this was most helpful in the time of COVID. By leveraging remote technology, we worried less about where to physically plant ourselves, and more about planting ideas. Indeed, the educational offerings and their uptake has never been greater. From the 'first' of many things - symposia, lectures, and daily operations - to learning some belated lessons. Why didn't we as a health system always have robust "remote" components? Why did telemedicine remain a theoretical idea until the necessity of a pandemic drove the machinery of invention (not the invention of the tech - my medical school in Vermont had that back in the 70s - but the payor mechanisms to support the deployment of this service)? Our innovation is driven by our collective vision, and guided by the best scientific evidence. In this spirit, we will conduct our first truly hybrid annual meeting. By working within CDC and state guidelines for vaccination, we plan to deliver a uniquely enjoyable, safe and educational experience.

In my role as Editor-in-Chief of the Delaware Journal of Public Health, I am pleased to commend the persistence and partnership of Tim Gibbs, MPH, who also serves a dual role as journal Publisher. Thanks to his efforts, we have secured SCOPUS and CrossRef indexing status and have completed a major hurdle toward being indexed by the National Library of Medicine's PubMed service, and remain Delaware's premier peer-reviewed indexed health sciences journal. We use this platform to tell your stories, and those of Delaware innovation and research in health sciences. We think far beyond our borders and include important global health material from partners at the NIH (particularly the Fogarty International Center), and the National Academy of Medicine. In the last few years we have built up an exceptional repository of data and information, and it is free for the asking, at www.djph.org. Thanks to our financial support from the Academy/DPHA and partners, we remain among the rare breed of dual Open Access journals: free to read and free to publish.

In the last editorial, I shared the impending transition of the Presidency of the Academy/DPHA. I know you will welcome Dr. John Swanson to the helm with the same and greater support as you have shown me. I will, as I shared, remain actively involved in leading the Journal, and as chair of the DPHA governing council (sadly for some of you, *Khanversations* will continue).

One frequently hears comparisons between healthcare and other professions during times of change. The auto industry, for example. Both share important aspects such as a focus on safety and performance. And have much to learn from each other as well. Yet such comparisons inevitably fall short. Taking care of people is fundamentally different. We cannot upgrade our software on-air like a Tesla. We cannot afford even a single missed opportunity to deliver the best care; when one sees 100 patients a week (i.e. more than 5000 patients a year), being right 95% of the time is still not good enough for the other 250 patients. We achieve improvement through learning and ongoing education. And thus, among the most important ways your Academy/DPHA serves the community, it is by not only educating

the current generation of health professionals, but developing future ones. By actively supporting the DIMER program, the Academy/DPHA is charting a broader course to truly understanding Delaware's healthcare workforce needs, and proactively working to fulfill them with all our partners in the Delaware Health Sciences Alliance.

The exceptional leaders at the Academy/DPHA deserve special mention. These include, in addition to Timothy Gibbs as executive director: Dr. Kate Smith, Elizabeth Lenz, Elizabeth Healy, Sharon Hess, and Matt McNeill, in addition to our team of advisors on all manner of work from design to finances to legal work.

With gratitude for all you, our membership, do and all you have taught me, I ask that you keep in touch with us, let us know what you like and what we can do to help us improve. I hope you enjoy the ride and continue to help us steer the best course forward.

Best regards.

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Delaware Journal of Public Health

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New Section: Spotlight



Diligent readers of the Journal may have noticed a new section in the past two issues.

In the spirit of actively developing and assisting future generations of Delaware health professionals, the editors and publisher of the journal have created the "**Spotlight**" section.

In this section, we highlight work done by students - Academy/DPHA student interns,

students from Delaware's various universities and programs of study, and newly graduated professionals in the health sciences.

If you know of any students or new professionals who might fit this criteria, [let us know](#)! In case you missed them, the previous Spotlight articles are below.

- [Health Checks for Care](#), Margot West, Academy/DPHA Student Intern, University of Delaware
- [What 2020 Taught Us about the Politics and Teaching of Public Health](#), Corinne Bogan and Erin Knight, PhD, University of Delaware
- [Emergency Patient Voting Initiative in a Community Hospital During a Global Pandemic: Lessons and a Call-to-Action for Expanded Voter Access](#), Carly Chamberlain, DO, Henrique Jamie, MD, and Diana Wohler, MD, ChristianaCare

Editor-in-Chief: Omar Khan, MD, MHS
Managing Editor: Elizabeth Healy, MPH
Copy Editor: Katherine Smith, MD, MPH
Publisher: Timothy Gibbs, MPH

Academy Updates

[Wednesday, June 2](#)



The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of many things last year, including our **Annual Meeting**. This year, we're making up for it! Join us at Deerfield Country Club as we hear from [Geoff Tabin, MD](#), co-founder and Chairmain of the [Himalayan Cataract Project](#), and Professor of ophthalmology and Global Medicine at Stanford University.

Dr. Tabin is the fourth person in the world to reach the tallest peak on each of the seven continents, he has published more than 45 peer-reviewed articles, two books, and a dozen book chapters related to his work in ophthalmology and the developing world.

[Register here](#)

National News

Making the Connection: Climate Changes Health

APHA and ecoAmerica are proud to co-sponsor a four-part webinar series investigating the health impacts of climate change. The series explores the connection between climate change and key areas of our health: allergies and asthma; health risks in children; mental health; and transportation and healthy community design as a mitigation approach.



[View the webinars here](#)

May is...

Arthritis Awareness Month
Celiac Disease Awareness Month
Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month
Healthy Vision Month
Hepatitis Awareness Month
Mental Health Awareness Month
National Stroke Awareness Month
Skin Cancer Awareness Month

[And Much More!](#)

Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health: [The DPH Bulletin](#)

Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

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