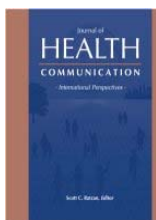


Editor's Focus



The ***Journal of Health Communication: International Perspectives*** celebrates its first decade with a special issue - Volume 11, Issue 1 - that examines the publication's contributions to health communication, describes the scholarship produced during the past 10 years, and suggests some exciting directions for the future.

Early in my academic career in Boston, I realized the need to develop premier training and scholarship in the burgeoning field of health communication. While there were academic and professional books, review chapters, professional conferences, and courses, the nascent field had a wide scope. I helped spearhead a new graduate degree program in health communication, initiating the first of its kind between a medical school and university. In 1994, the first students matriculated in the Emerson-Tufts Masters Program in Health Communication. At the same time, in the quest to advance the scientific and humanistic evidence base, I started the ***Journal of Health Communication: International Perspectives*** and became founding editor. Nearly fifty scholars joined the editorial board to support the peer-reviewed approach in academic publishing. In ten years of editing this journal, the editorial home has moved from Boston to George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services. The journal has achieved many goals, to highlight a few:

1. The first year it was measured for impact factor by ISI, it debuted as 2nd out of 44 communication journals;
2. It was the first journal in the field to be referenced in Medline and;
3. Became the journal of choice for public health and governmental agencies to highlight key research in health communication (e.g. supplements for UNAIDS, NCI, CDC and others).

This special issue takes a look at the milestones and academic works that have appeared in the journal: 54 issues, 321 articles, and over 5,000 pages. The next decade of the journal will further press forward ideas and add evidence for the ideal communication that ultimately preserves, promotes, and protects health amongst people throughout the globe.

Scott C. Ratzan, MD, MPA
Editor

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