

FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Students, Residents, Faculty, and Friends of the Forum,

We are delighted to present you with the 19th annual edition of *The Medicine Forum*. Here in the birthplace of our nation, we like to think of *The Medicine Forum* as being of the housestaff, by the housestaff and for the housestaff. Undeniably, this publication would not be possible without the countless hours dedicated by our residents, students, fellows and faculty.

At its core, *The Medicine Forum* is about the expansion of our knowledge base and the betterment of our clinical practice. In sharing our experiences with each other, we all improve the care that we deliver our patients. With this objective in mind, we are particularly excited to present you this year with a quality improvement article on transitions of care. Dr. Turner and his colleagues tackle the handoff processes between the intensive care units and the inpatient medicine services in an effort to make these transitions safer for critically ill patients.

This year, we chose to highlight the opioid epidemic which has become the greatest public health crisis of our generation. Working in the heart of Philadelphia, we see the consequences of this epidemic every day. We see it in our clinics, in our emergency department, and on our inpatient medicine services. Everyday, we care for young patients with devastating complications of this disease. We struggle with the challenges of treating addiction in the hospital and facilitating the transition to outpatient care. In this edition, we talk to a team of multi-disciplinary providers about the role of providers in this epidemic and how to best care for these patients as we move forward. How we identify and respond to this crisis will define our generation of medicine.

As always, thank you for reading the *The Medicine Forum*. We hope you will continue to support us in the years to come.

Sincerely,

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