

Calling All Educators: Let Us Know Your Educational Needs

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Coincidentally, as I sit to write this editorial, I am marking my eighth year of living with type 1 diabetes. At the time of my diagnosis, I was a newly graduated pharmacist exploring various career options. I remember quite vividly the feeling that came with hearing, “You have diabetes.” What particularly struck me at the time was that I was a health care professional, yet what knowledge I had gained through my education seemingly went out the window at the moment I heard those words. It was a very humbling realization.

The paralyzing feeling that ensued immediately led me to wonder how others, many without a health care background, cope with a diagnosis of diabetes and all that comes with it. Only through the devoted attention and support of a small army consisting of my wonderful wife Angie, my parents, multiple diabetes educators, and other family members and friends was I able to bounce back. Given the impact diabetes educators had on my life at that time, I quickly decided on a career path as a diabetes educator.

I was fortunate as a graduate of Washington State University in Spokane to have two brilliant and caring educators take me under their wings: Stephen M. Setter, PharmD, CGP, CDE, and R. Keith Campbell, RPh, CDE, MBA, FASHP. Once I decided to pursue a career in diabetes research and education, Steve was kind enough to take me on as a resident and nurture my aspirations and goals. Although Steve is no longer with us and is missed dearly by all who had the privilege of knowing him, his legacy of compassion and

advocacy for his “golden adults”—the term he used to describe the geriatric population he loved to serve—and people with diabetes continues through the many students, residents, and fellows he educated through the years. Keith Campbell has likewise been an amazing mentor, friend, and confidant. Keith is an absolute dynamo and one of the most passionate and outgoing people I know. I cannot thank him enough for all of the opportunities, advice, and wisdom he has provided and will undoubtedly continue to provide for years to come.

One of the most rewarding professional experiences I have had the privilege of participating in is being on the editorial team for *Diabetes Spectrum*. After Keith introduced me to former editor-in-chief Jackie L. Boucher, MS, RD, LD, CDE, in 2009, Jackie was kind enough to invite me to serve on the journal’s editorial board. Then, in 2010, I was offered the opportunity to transition to the role of associate editor on Jackie’s editorial team. The experience has been everything I expected and more.

Through my role with *Diabetes Spectrum* and the American Diabetes Association (ADA), I have had the opportunity to network with and learn from a multitude of brilliant clinicians and educators. I am so excited to embark on my new role as editor-in-chief for the journal and to continue to interact with amazing professionals in the field of diabetes, yet I am acutely aware that I have big shoes to fill. In addition to being one of the kindest and most humble people I have had the honor of working with, Jackie has been a

tremendous editor-in-chief. I sincerely thank her for her mentorship and selfless dedication to facilitating a smooth, seamless transition as our new editorial team begins its work. Special thanks are additionally due to Jackie, Christian Kohler (ADA's director of scholarly publishing), and the ADA leadership for affording me this fantastic opportunity and considering me as a viable candidate to carry the torch.

In preparation for my term as editor, I was charged with assembling a group of associate editors to comprise the incoming *Diabetes Spectrum* editorial team. My team includes a mixture of returning and new editors from a variety of disciplines, all of whom are dedicated educators and professionals. I am very grateful that Alison B. Evert, MS, RD, CDE, will be continuing with the journal as deputy editor. Alison brings an invaluable wealth of experience and talent to the team, having served as an associate editor and later deputy editor for the journal since 2009. Alison is an educator I have looked up to for years, and I look forward to working with her in this role. Our associate editors include Sandra Drozd Burke, PhD, APN-BC, CDE, FAADE; Fran R. Cogen, MD, CDE; Janine Freeman,

RD, LD, CDE; Carol J. Homko, RN, PhD, CDE; Alan J. Kelly, MD, FACP; Lindy Swain, PharmD; Curtis L. Triplitt, PharmD, CDE; and Jeffrey J. VanWormer, PhD. I am so honored that these esteemed and talented individuals have agreed to be a part of my team, and I look forward to working with each over the next several years. Last, but certainly not least, Debbie Kendall will continue in her role as managing editor for *Diabetes Spectrum*. Debbie has been the journal's managing editor since 1993, and I thank her for her mentorship, knowledge, and guidance as the new editorial team continues to plan issues for 2014 and beyond.

Our team is very excited to serve you, the readership of *Diabetes Spectrum*, and is well underway in the planning, development, and implementation of future issues. We met in September 2013 to begin our planning process and have what we believe is a great lineup for this year. We will continue to develop timely and informative From Research to Practice sections, features, and articles for our standing departments: Care Innovations, Pharmacy and Therapeutics, Nutrition FYI, and Lifestyle and Behavior. The editorial team is working diligently with a group of incredible guest editors

and the authors of manuscripts, both invited and unsolicited, to deliver timely and informative articles on a variety of topics. In the From Research to Practice sections for the remainder of 2014, you can expect to see updates on pharmacotherapeutic interventions, inpatient management of diabetes, and physical activity implementation.

I am delighted to start this new endeavor with *Diabetes Spectrum*. Diabetes educators have had a huge impact on my life, and I hope that, through this role, I can give back, if only in a small way. If you have any requests for articles or suggestions for future From Research to Practice sections, please let me or another member of the editorial team know. Additionally, if you have an area of interest or expertise that you would like to share with fellow professionals and educators, please consider submitting an article to the journal to be considered through our peer-review process for publication. We understand and appreciate the importance of the work you do to improve the care of people with diabetes. In turn, we welcome your input and look forward to continuing to provide you with the quality information you have come to expect from *Diabetes Spectrum*.