

There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

— Margaret J. Wheatley

AMERICAN AUTHOR and organizational behavior expert Margaret Wheatley reminds us that professional communities grow in meaningful ways when they discover common values and priorities—a process that can only occur when there is a willingness to ask many questions and be open to new perspectives. In this issue of *JMR*, we offer three articles that reflect the spirit of such discovery, starting with **“Saskatchewan Physicians’ Opinions of their Personalized Prescribing Profiles” (page 7)**. Authors from Canada studied how regulators perceive physician prescribing of controlled substances and physicians’ reflections on their own prescribing practices—drawing interesting conclusions that could decrease the tensions that sometimes arise around the process of monitoring controlled-substance prescribing. Reflection on one’s prescribing practice can be hard, especially when presented by regulatory bodies. But it can also be a good thing—leading to enlightenment, more appropriate prescribing and enhanced patient safety. In **“Public Knowledge and Beliefs Regarding Licensure, Certification and Medical Education of Physician Assistants” (page 26)**, authors from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants take a serious look at how the physician assistant (PA) profession is perceived by the public. As a relatively new medical profession, PA numbers are small and patients have limited knowledge of how they are trained and credentialed. The profession’s inquiry into patients’ perspectives will help as it works to enhance public understanding and inform decisions regarding regulation. In **“Strategies to Enhance Boards of Medicine Responses to Medical Error” (page 17)**, we learn, through stakeholder interviews, that reinventing state medical boards’ review process is urgent. The traditional review of physicians in isolation is obsolete. Health care, increasingly provided by teams in large health care systems, often leaves practitioners reported to a medical board as victims of system-induced errors. The article helps us reflect on the need for collaboration between health care systems and regulators to identify good physicians, distinguishing them from ones who truly have knowledge or skills deficits. Improved strategies for regulators are needed to address these issues, which bring unintended consequences for practitioners and for patients.

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