Editorial: Special Issue of the American Journal of Epidemiology Commemorating the Centennial of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

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I was greatly honored to be asked by Editor-in-Chief Dr. Moyses Szklo to serve as guest editor-in-chief of this special issue of the American Journal of Epidemiology celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Those of us working in the fields of epidemiology and public health have, of course, been well aware of the importance and leading role of this institution, but the papers in this issue provide greater insight into the School’s achievements and the persons responsible for making them happen. I learned a lot from reading these papers, and doing so increased my respect for and understanding of the School.

As documented in this issue, the broad scope of accomplishments and contributions of the School is truly impressive. The topics discussed herein include infectious and noninfectious diseases; the broad scope of focus of attention from bedside, to prevention in individuals, to local public health, to international public health; scientific methodology and substantive findings; factors in disease causation, including genetic, biochemical, clinical, lifestyle, environmental, occupational, and psychosocial factors; single-institution studies and multi-institution collaborations; and both learning from the past and planning for the future. Also included are papers written by and about both current and former faculty members and deans.

My one disappointment was not receiving a paper about the good work at Johns Hopkins concerning gun violence as a public health problem. However, that was alleviated when I learned that the next issue of Epidemiologic Reviews will be devoted to that subject.

We used the Journal’s standard procedures for accepting manuscripts for this issue. Based on the subject matter, I assigned the review of most of the papers to one of our editors or associate editors. They obtained peer review when they believed it was needed and made the final decisions about acceptance, revision with resubmission, or rejection. They or I made decisions about commentaries and historical papers, usually without peer review. We decided to accept some papers that were above our standard word limits when the content was of special interest and appropriate for this issue celebrating the centennial. The editors of this issue were Stephen Cole, Bianca DeStavola, Betsy Foxman, Ichiro Kawachi, Mark Klebanoff, Muin Kouyou, Matthew Longnecker, Robert Lyles, Polly Marchbanks, James Pankow, Steven Shea, and Joseph Wu. I greatly appreciate their contributions to the quality of this issue. Dr. Szklo deserves special thanks for encouraging his colleagues at the School to submit papers for this issue.

So read, learn, and enjoy.

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