Six years ago, I was given the privilege of being the first Editor-in-Chief of this new journal, JAMA Network Open, from which I will be stepping down at the end of June 2024. Open access was a somewhat new concept for me at the time: I had never published an article in an open access journal. The concept, though, of being an Editor-in-Chief of an international platform for science that would be available to all readers, whoever and wherever they may be, and that maintained the scientific rigor of the journals in the JAMA Network was extremely attractive and exciting. I jumped at the opportunity to lead a team of outstanding people to accomplish the mission of the journal:

The mission of JAMA Network Open is to improve health, health care, and health equity worldwide through open access dissemination of high-quality, innovative, general medical research and commentary by and for a broad range of clinicians, researchers, policy makers, and public health and health care leaders.¹

What an amazing ride it has been! Starting from zero, we now are receiving 1200 to 1500 submissions a month and are publishing 8 studies 5 days per week. It is truly an international journal, with two-thirds of our submissions coming from outside the US. Our Impact Factor is now 13.8, and we are generally acknowledged as the best, large-volume, open-access general medical journal in the world.

There are many factors and people responsible for the success of JAMA Network Open. From the outset, we were committed to only publishing high-quality science and having the same rigorous peer-review and statistical-review process that all the journals in the JAMA Network follow. Our publisher, Brian Shields, and before him Tom Easley, have never hesitated to provide us with the resources we need to sustain this scientific rigor.

Most of all, the success has been due to the incredible editors and editorial staff we have had at JAMA Network Open. Stephan Fihn, MD, MPH, as Deputy Editor, is a friend and colleague and has been my true partner in this endeavor and has guided and taught me, a pediatrician, in the handling of manuscripts mostly about adults. He has served as a guide and sounding board on critical decisions and has shared in the burgeoning workload over the last 6 years. His extensive contacts of physicians and investigators have been instrumental in the success of the journal. Our current cadre of Associate Editors is a phenomenal group of clinicians and scientists who are all leaders in their fields: Steven Bradley, MD, MPH; Angel Desai, MD, MPH; Utibe Essien, MD, MPH; Faith Gunning, PhD; Elizabeth Jacobs, MD, MAPP; Howard Kim, MD, MS; Arden Morris, MD, MPH; Roisin O’Cearbhaill, MD; Olubenga Ogedegbe, MD, MS, MPH; Francisco Pasquel, MD, MPH; Eli Perencevich, MD, MS; Roy Perlis, MD, MSc; Elizabeth Powell, MD, MPH; Alejandro Rabinstein, MD; Gordon Rubenfeld, MD, MSc; Kaveh Shojania, MD; Lawrence Shulman, MD; Stephanie Studenski, MD; Beth Tarini, MD, MS, MBA; and Rachel Werner, MD, PhD. Monica Vela, MD, has served as our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Associate Editor and has kept us on track to being a journal that values and respects diversity and strives for equity. Seth Treuger, MD, MPH, as our Digital Media Editor ensures that our content is distributed as widely as possible. Sebastien Haneuse, PhD, and Jesse Berlin, ScD, have been critically important as our statistical editors, constantly educating all of us and helping authors make their papers as methodologically rigorous as possible. They lead a group of dedicated paid statistical reviewers who allow JAMA Network Open to have high-quality statistical assessment of all the studies we publish. Our two Assistant Editors, Heba Mesbah, MD, PhD, and Mary Regina Royan, MD, MPH,
along with several of the Associate Editors, review every manuscript before revision and acceptance to help authors meet JAMA Network reporting standards.

Daniel Lowden is our senior editorial manager and has been a calm, positive force who has kept the journal running smoothly day in and day out, assisted by Kay Barajas, Ashley Lao, Tracy Levick, Bri Roolke, and Asher Sizemore. Heather Green as Managing Editor oversees a wonderful group of manuscript editors, who make everything we publish understandable and readable: Jen Phillis, PhD; Caitlin Baker, MA, CCC-SLP; Michael Dhar, MS, MA; Rebecca Luttrell, ELS; Ryan Marks, MA; Greg McConnell; Leslie Parrish, MFA; Rebecca Palmer; and Gina Vari, MA, PhD.

I am indebted to Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, MD, PhD, MAS, Editor-in-Chief of the JAMA Network, and before her Howard Bauchner, MD, for entrusting me with this honor and providing the encouragement and support that make it possible. Annette Flanagin RN, MA, Executive Managing Editor of the JAMA Network, has been a truly tireless colleague who helps the journal every day, and we would not be where we are without her.

I started with the JAMA Network 24 years ago in July 2000 as Editor-in-Chief of then Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, now JAMA Pediatrics, the oldest and best pediatric journal in the world. Catherine DeAngelis, MD, MPH, gave me my start as an editor, and I am forever grateful for the privilege I have had for now over 2 decades. To me, it is a source of wonder to receive submissions from authors literally in all corners of the world (authors from 83 countries submitted manuscripts to JAMA Network Open in 2023) and to get a front-row seat on the science that is being conducted for the advancement of health across the globe. I am so heartened by the generosity of busy people who do peer reviews, write commentaries, and give their energy as members of the community of science to help us publish work that will make a difference in health and health care.

Although this is a bittersweet time for me as I leave JAMA Network Open and the JAMA Network, I am thrilled that my position as Editor-in-Chief will be filled by Eli Perencevich, MD, MS, who has been an Associate Editor with the journal from its inception. Dr Perencevich is Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and Director of the Center for Comprehensive Access and Delivery Research and Evaluation at the Iowa VA Medical Center. His clinical expertise in infectious disease played such an important role when the deluge of manuscripts on COVID-19 began in March 2020 and continued for the next 3 years. He is an outstanding scientist, a talented leader, and a wonderful person. The journal could not be in better hands.

Being the first Editor-in-Chief of JAMA Network Open has been a wonderful experience for me and an important part of my career. Thank you for this privilege.

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**ARTICLE INFORMATION**

Published: June 24, 2024. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.21821

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Conflict of Interest Disclosures: None reported.

**REFERENCE**