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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The editorial philosophy of the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* has always centered around the idea of accessibility. As a multidisciplinary journal, we are read by doctors, lawyers, philosophers, policy-makers, and anyone concerned with some of the most pressing questions facing our world today. That is why you see the drastic changes in the *Journal* that are now before you. These changes are designed to make the journal more accessible and readable for all of our readers. We hope you enjoy the colorful new look of *JLME*, and recognize that the one thing we haven't changed is our commitment to bringing you the most important scholarship in the fields of law, medicine and ethics.

It is symbolic that at such a critical moment in the long history of *JLME* we are able to bring to our readers one of the most important and relevant symposium topics we have ever published. Guest Editor Sara Rosenbaum has brought together some of the finest scholars in health law in the United States in order to address the terrible and continuing problem of uninsured people in America. Today in the U.S. millions of Americans are uninsured, millions of others are only partially insured, and still scores of millions more wonder if they and their families could survive for an extended period of time without insurance through the loss of a job or health benefits. Rosenbaum and her authors ask all the most pertinent and difficult questions. Above all, they want to know why the great majority of the industrialized world has universal insurance, and why the people of the United States still must go without.

Please also take a moment to read some of our new regular columns that we have added to the pages of *JLME*. In every issue Robin Wilson of the University of Maryland will be editing a review essay, examining some of the latest books, articles, papers and websites related to law, medicine and ethics. Ted Ruger of the University of Pennsylvania has also joined us, writing a yearly column which will review the Supreme Court's judgments and decisions over the past year regarding health law. As *JLME* continues to grow and change over the next few issues, look for more regular feature columns by some of the leaders in the field.

Finally, we ask that you please take a moment to read the moving tribute to Dr. John Fletcher of the University of Virginia, written by his friend and colleague Paul Lombardo. John Fletcher was an outstanding scholar and a long-time contributor to the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*. Sadly, John himself wrote a touching remembrance of his friend Dorothy Wertz in the pages of *JLME* exactly one year ago. Everyone here at the Journal wishes John's own well-deserved tribute had not come so soon, and are reminded that tributes and remembrances are the only writings that we never like to publish.

Ted Hutchinson
Editor