

Public Health Reports

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

READER RESPONSE TO THE NEW *PHR* SAMPLED

We do not pretend that the following letters constitute a representative sample of our readers—self-selection bias does exist—but they do accurately reflect the range of opinions expressed in the letters we have received. We are pleased that the reinvented *Public Health Reports* seems to be getting overwhelming praise. Only two correspondents complained, and that because we lacked the patience to wait until the end of the volume year to alter the journal's size, making binding more difficult.

If you are pleased with the new *Public Health Reports*, we would appreciate your subscribing *and* passing along a copy or just the subscription blank on the back cover to friends and colleagues. At \$15 for six issues it remains the unrivaled bargain among professional journals.—**The Editor**

Got my September/October issue in the mail yesterday and got to it last night as I did Oreos and milk in bed. Your reformation of *PHR* is stellar! Congratulations on a job well done.

I very rarely provide the level of applause that I have given the reinvented *PHR*, but must say that I wish I had the formula for producing such a wonderful product. In this era, quality seems to take a low priority. In this case, the product is 100% quality.

ARTHUR LAWRENCE, PhD
Senior Advisor to the
Assistant Secretary for Health
Washington, DC

Just received my copy of September/October issue of *PHR*. The new look (appearance and contents) is fantastic. Congratulations.

RICHARD GOODMAN, MD MPH
Editor, Morbidity and Mortality
Weekly Report

I got snowed-in this weekend and read *Public Health Reports* from cover to cover. It is terrific! Over the next few years it will be critically important that there be a forum for discussion of public health concepts, policies, and practice. I'm convinced that we have an opportunity to actually integrate public health into medical care, if only we can see it and convince people of its viability. The reincarnation of this journal is a great public service. Congratulations and keep it up.

TARA J. O'TOOLE, MD MPH
Assistant Secretary for Environment,
Safety, and Health
Department of Energy

I applaud your magazine coming into the new age, and the format looks good. But as a librarian I have a major gripe. It would have been better to start the new format with the January/February 1996 issue, as opposed to

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the issues of this volume, at year's end (since there will be two different dimensions of issues in one volume). This is not just a problem for librarians, but for anyone who wishes to bind and protect this volume. Evidently there is not a librarian on your staff.

NARCISO RODRIGUEZ
Brooklyn Hospital Center

We did consider the difficulty of binding the journal. However, we felt that the disadvantages of delaying the design changes for four months (through the end of the year) were greater. We were careful to incorporate wide enough margins to allow the larger-size issues to be cropped and bound without losing any text.

—EDITOR

Congratulations! The new format of *Public Health Reports* is a delight! I certainly share your view that manuscripts should be "accurate, short, crisp, and readable." I would like to see *Public Health Reports* continue to give high priority to publishing scientific reports and not every health professional will share my view. Please accept my very best wishes for every success.

DONALD W. MACCORQUODALE,
MD MSPH

Reports had fallen into a bit of a funk in recent years. Under your energetic and progressive leadership, I am sure the journal will now take off like a rocket! The first issue is great.

LOWELL S. LEVIN, PhD
Professor of Public Health
Head, Division of International Health
Yale University

The new format for *PHR* is great. It looks more professional, reads well, and highlights tables and graphics much more effectively. Two additional suggestions: 1) If the author has e-mail, routinely print their address as well as

their mailing address, and 2) print the keywords that will be used to reference each piece on Medline somewhere (perhaps at the end of the synopsis?).

RUSSELL S. KIRBY, PhD MS
Assistant Professor of Epidemiology
University of Arkansas for
Medical Sciences

Congratulations! The new direction looks good. I am particularly interested in the new "Public Health and Law."

DAVID R. SMITH, MD
Commissioner of Health
Texas Department of Health

Congratulations to you and the staff of *Public Health Reports* on the redesigned Journal. It looks great! I found this issue highly interesting, informative, and well written. Recognizing the Contributing Editors is also a nice touch.

HARRY M. ROSENBERG, PhD
Chief, Mortality Statistics Branch
Division of Vital Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics

Congratulations! You have done a truly remarkable job in redesigning *Public Health Reports*.

It is a pleasure to see the continuing success of *PHR*—an invaluable public health resource for a large number of public health practitioners—broadly defined.

I trust that *PHR* will also serve as a mechanism for the transfer of knowledge derived from environmental health research into forms more accessible to public health practitioners at the state and local levels.

BAILUS WALKER JR, PhD MPH
Associate Director and Professor of
Environmental and Occupational
Medicine
Howard University Cancer Center

We received copies of the issue. Because our subscription had lapsed, I

hadn't seen the new format. You have made remarkable changes and we are most proud to be a part of the journal's contribution.

Congratulations on fine work for this journal. I'm reestablishing my subscription. It's a bargain!

J. JARRETT CLINTON, MD MPH
Assistant Surgeon General
Regional Health Administrator

CORRECTIONS

The article in the January/February 1996 *Public Health Reports* by Alan Bloch and his colleagues from CDC should have been titled: "Expanded Tuberculosis Surveillance in the United States: The Need for Epidemic Intelligence." It will be listed properly in the annual index.

For Farnham et al., "Counseling and Testing for HIV Prevention: Costs, Effects, and Cost-Effectiveness of More Rapid Screening Tests," which appeared in the January/February 1996 *Public Health Reports*: In Table 3 the unit of measurement for the variables, "Time, administrative, laboratory work, Western blot," and "Time, posttest counseling (return visit)," should have been "fraction of hour." All cost, wage rate, and valuation variables in that table are measured in dollars per hour and all time variables are measured in fractions of an hour. In Table 4, the variables in the "Costs" and "Costs-Effects" columns are all measured in dollars. In the Outcome II section of Table 5, the unit of measurement for the variable, "Time, posttest counseling, HIV-client, first visit," should have been "fraction of hour."