

Public Health Reports

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Darmon Thompson, OPHS

Allan Rosenfield (far left) and A.B. Lindberg (seated) sign the co-sponsorship agreement while, from left to right, Robyn Gopin, Anthony Robbins, and Jo Ivey Boufford look on.

SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH NOW CO-SPONSOR *PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS*

On May 1, Dr. Allan Rosenfield, Dean of the School of Public Health at Columbia University and President of the Association of Schools of Public Health, joined Drs. Jo Ivey Boufford and Donald A.B. Lindberg, for the U.S. Public Health Service, in signing an agreement to co-sponsor *Public Health Reports*. The signing and reception were small and modest, but the plans and dreams for the journal are very ambitious. Now, with the participation of the schools' 3000 faculty, 14,000 students, and 75,000 alumnae/i, the redesigned and reinvented *Public Health Reports* is ready for a new era. We welcome the new sponsors, who share our mission to advance the health of the public and the field of public health.

BEWARE OF BOILERPLATE

We recently received a manuscript that describes the use of lipid screening in a managed care population. The covering letter from the first author was on stationery from the Center for Health Care Research, an arm of that managed care plan. Although the letter touched all the bases for a good letter of submission, following the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*, something was seriously wrong. The corresponding author, who works for the research center, had included the following sentence: "We certify that none of the authors had any affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with a direct financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript." That just wasn't true.

We replied with gentle humor, asking that the authors consider whether the boilerplate they plugged in really described their situation.

Everyone who submits a manuscript to *Public Health Reports* should remember that the purpose of disclosure in the letter is to permit us to inform our readers about potential bias, not to eliminate all bias. Thus we make a plea to our authors to read and think carefully about their letters of submission.