



Salutatory from the Editor-in-Chief

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This day and age is one of uncertainty. Perhaps for the first time in our modern world, everybody feels it. Not just those with a lower socioeconomic status, and not just the middle class. Uncertainty has spread to encapsulate not just the economy and whether or not a family can go on one more vacation this year. The uncertainty has penetrated the foundations of old alliances and basic rights – such that not just your average John and Jane Doe feel uncertainty, but everybody up the political ladder as well.

While I do not wish to unleash a political debate, it's important to realize how this uncertainty effects the basic needs of people, and the services that take care of them. For better or for worse, these needs don't change overnight, but the services can; and sometimes they do. With the stroke of a pen a law can be signed into effect that has the potential to disrupt the basic functioning of a service – such as the repeal of an act that funds healthcare for millions of Americans.

While such far-reaching legislature has not gone into effect as yet, one can wonder what will happen in the future. For this reason, the integrity of the field has never been more important. In this issue of the *Columbia Medical Review*, we focus on equity in medical care. We present a broad spectrum of topics, highlighting aspects that touch both physician and patient. One may view them as case studies, applicable to subjects beyond what is portrayed here. For example, Dr. Morrell's paper on the location of abortion clinics and court trials held with regard to applicable legislature is but one example of such issues.

The editorial board now welcomes you to read the second issue of the *Columbia Medical Review*. We strongly believe that by identifying problems, issues can be fixed and progress can be made. We hope this issue will be start of such a process, with the articles published within.

Benjamin van Soldt
Editor-in-Chief