Dear Reader,

Through our Fall 2021 issue, we aim to continue contributing to global and public health conversations through the publication of original research from members around the world. With a combination of virtual meetings and a gradual return to normalcy this fall, the journal has continued to engage with community members through the launch of our new issue and online events with featured guests. The pandemic underscored the importance of scientific research and continued engagement in these dialogues, and we have strived to continue maintaining this journal as an open space and platform for these conversations to occur.

Our most recent event titled “Battling Pandemic Burnout” sought to shed light on mental health resources and outreach following the enduring long-term effects of the pandemic. We welcomed two guests – Kelly Gorman from Alice! Health Promotion and Kausik from Columbia The Art of Living – and the event featured conversations surrounding mindfulness and the practice of yoga.

In addition, we have continued to work closely in partnership with Columbia University Libraries and this semester marked a new milestone for our online board, as the team transitioned our podcast and blog to a new website. We are excited for the online board’s upcoming productions with their new online home.

In this Fall 2021 issue, you’ll find articles that deal with timely issues regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic such as factors that contribute to COVID-19 vaccine acceptance in Sub-Saharan Africa and global trends in vaccine hesitancy and acceptance. You will also find articles that explore ongoing public health concerns such as incorporating community engagement to optimize rainwater harvesting systems and centering community acceptance of water sanitation and hygiene initiatives to reduce the burden of soil-transmitted helminth infections in low and middle income countries. We are very fortunate to be able to work with our authors in publishing articles on these topics.

We continue to be so grateful for the contributions of our wonderful staff, advisers, and peer reviewers, with special thanks to Digital Publishing Librarian Michelle Wilson and faculty advisor Professor James Colgrove, without which this journal would not be what it is today.

Sincerely,
Scarlet Au & Sophia Spiegel
Co-Editors-in-Chief,
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