Editorial changes at JECH

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We are delighted to take up the position of Co-Editors of the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health. JECH is the leading international journal for original, socially-relevant, methodologically sound epidemiological analyses of important public health problems, and we are proud to continue the rich tradition that previous editors have started, including John Ashton, Carlos Alvarez-Dardet and, most recently, Mauricio Barreto. Both of us have been fortunate to work under Mauricio Barreto as Deputy Editors and we look forward to continuing the trend of excellence that has been established by all of our predecessors.

As Co-Editors, we will continue publishing high quality research from all areas of epidemiology. We are excited to announce some new innovations for the journal. Most importantly, we would like to announce our aspiration to make JECH the leading journal for the publication of research on the impact of social interventions on population health and health inequalities. JECH has long been interested in social determinants of health and, as the new editors, we would like to extend the focus on social determinants of health from mapping the problem to explaining it and, in particular, doing something about it. This focus also reflects a growing emphasis in a number of countries on what some have called “population health intervention research”3 in Canada, France, the UK, Australia and the USA. Population health intervention research has been defined as research that “involves the use of scientific methods to produce knowledge about policy and program interventions that operate within or outside of the health sector and have the potential to impact health at the population level”,1,4 in which fewer than 250 could be published. In 2010, JECH received over 2000 submissions, of which fewer than 250 could be published. With this volume of manuscripts, difficult decisions often have to be made, but we strive to make the decisions rapidly and fairly. We sincerely hope that the journal will continue to be a useful resource in your work, no matter what segment of our readership you come from, and we will be working to ensure that is the case.

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REFERENCES