Editorial

Constantine Gatsonis

Published online: 20 November 2013
© Springer Science+Business Media New York 2013

This triple issue of HSORM completes the 14th year of publication of the journal and marks the conclusion of my tenure as founding Editor-in-Chief. Dr. Yue Li from the University of Rochester will assume this post in January 2014.

HSORM was launched at a time of tremendous growth in Health Services and Outcomes Research and defined itself as a truly interdisciplinary journal devoted to methodologic issues in the field. The journal took a broad view of methods and emerged as a meeting ground for researchers who came to HSOR from diverse disciplines, including statistics, health econometrics, epidemiology, and the social and behavioral sciences.

The main goal of the journal has been to contribute to the scientific fusion of disciplines that is so central to HSOR and to foster the development and dissemination of quantitative methods for the field. In pursuit of this goal the journal has promoted and featured work on major methodologic developments that shaped the field in the past two decades. One of them has been the advent of hierarchical, multi-level modeling as a methodologic approach that is often intrinsic to health care data. Another has been the phenomenal growth of causal inference and resulting methods for the analysis of observational data. Undoubtedly, the journal's attention in the coming years will be focused on the new methodologic challenges that arise as HSOR moves into the era of Comparative Effectiveness Research and the growing availability of massive databases.

In drawing my tenure to a close I want to thank the many colleagues who sustained the journal with their contributions as editors, members of the editorial board, and reviewers. My gratitude also goes to the organizers of the International Conference on Health Policy Statistics for developing a long-term collaboration with the journal that led to regular publication of special issues featuring articles from the conference; to the Guest Editors of special issues on other topics; and to the publisher for providing an efficient and modern infrastructure for editing and disseminating the journal. Above all, my gratitude goes to the authors who made it all happen by contributing their work to the journal, and to the readers, who supported the journal over the years.

C. Gatsonis (✉)

Department of Biostatistics, Brown University School of Public Health, Providence, RI, USA
e-mail: gatsonis@stat.brown.edu