

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Chronicles of Health Impact Assessment (CHIA)! It has been quite a journey to launch this journal, but we are happy to present the first edition. The motivation behind the creation of CHIA was the difficulty experienced when seeking publishing sources for health impact assessment studies. We continually received feedback that our articles were interesting, however the journals “did not publish these types of articles”. The idea to create an avenue for dissemination of health impact literature was born when we learned the Indiana University Library had the capability to publish online open access journals. In this issue you will find an update on the Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA), the history of the work on health impact assessment in the United States, and the support that has been provided and will be necessary to continue to expand the field. You will also find an article about the advocacy needed to further address health equity and democracy.

At the 2015 National HIA meeting we met to ask what types of questions the CHIA journal could help answer. It was suggested we discuss successful monitoring and evaluation efforts and highlight more predictive outcomes modeling. People wanted to have access to evidenced based criteria for community engagement and lessons learned. Finally, they wanted articles about practical tips from the field, case studies and more methodology focused articles. Please consider this first issue as a call for articles addressing these and similar issues. We hope as we move forward to publish two issues a year and eventually include issues with a specific focus, such as HIAs that address: transportation, land use, or food access and procurement concerns. Please begin to submit your articles to chia@iu.edu.

In conclusion I want to thank the Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA) Board and Human Impact Partners (HIP) for agreeing to work on the journal. I also want to thank the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health Dean, Dr. Paul Halverson, my chair Dr. Nir Menachemi, and the faculty and staff for their support and encouragement. I also want to thank the other members of the editorial board who assisted in so many ways in the launching this first issue, especially Lyndy Kouns.

Best wishes,
Cynthia Stone DrPH, RN
Chronicles of Health Impact Assessment Editor-In-Chief



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