

10-18-2022

## A Moment of Reflection As We Move Forward

Bruce Morgenstern

Follow this and additional works at: <https://aah.org/jpcrr>

 Part of the [Medical Education Commons](#), [Primary Care Commons](#), [Public Health Commons](#), and the [Translational Medical Research Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Morgenstern B. A moment of reflection as we move forward. J Patient Cent Res Rev. 2022;9:251-2. doi: [10.17294/2330-0698.2011](https://doi.org/10.17294/2330-0698.2011)

Published quarterly by Midwest-based health system Advocate Aurora Health and indexed in PubMed Central, the Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews (JPCRR) is an open access, peer-reviewed medical journal focused on disseminating scholarly works devoted to improving patient-centered care practices, health outcomes, and the patient experience.

## A Moment of Reflection As We Move Forward

Bruce Morgenstern, MD | Editor-in-Chief

Roseman University College of Medicine, Las Vegas, NV

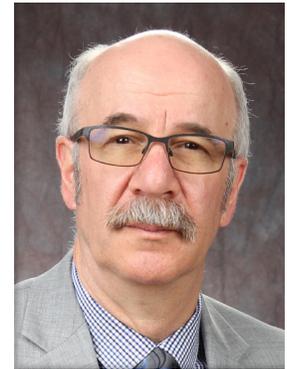
I was both deeply honored and had strong feelings of impostor syndrome after being offered the position of editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews (JPCRR)*. Having been on the journal's editorial board for several years, I had a clear sense of the giant shoes of Dennis Baumgardner, *JPCRR*'s founding editor-in-chief, that I will be trying to fill.

In Volume 1, Issue 1 of *JPCRR*, released in January 2014, we learned that the journal was enabled through a donation from the Robyn Temkin Memorial Fund. Drs. Nick Turkal and Randall Lambrecht, then presidents of Wisconsin-based Aurora Health Care and the Aurora Research Institute, respectively, outlined their vision: an online journal with worldwide readership that “will be interdisciplinary with a focus on information that helps improve patient care.”<sup>1</sup> They hoped “that *JPCRR* will serve as a vehicle for promoting research collaborations, which forge thinking between disciplines and embrace innovative ideas.”<sup>1</sup> The institutional vision also encompassed supporting a no-fee journal, which, in an era of widespread predatory publishing, was an inspired position and one that further distinguishes *JPCRR*'s open access approach.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Baumgardner's very first column for *JPCRR* spoke to the patient-centered element in the journal's mission. He specifically emphasized that submissions must be able to connect the work being presented with the care of patients.<sup>3</sup> He outlined that *JPCRR* would have an active multidisciplinary editorial board and would implement a “rigorous and thoughtful” peer-review process.<sup>3</sup> Under his leadership, the journal has achieved that goal.

I did a little research when offered the editor-in-chief position, largely because I needed to re-learn what patient-centered care really means. I practiced for nearly 40 years as a pediatric nephrologist, a field that has long involved

use of a team-based model. There has been a smattering of clinical research and a lot of medical education along my journey. The concept of care being patient-centered seemed, from the start of my career, to be as intrinsic to my work as breathing was to my being alive. Still, refamiliarizing ourselves with a precise definition of this concept is crucial, especially since it has guided *JPCRR*'s editorial mission for the past 9 years.



Allow me a brief, if far-from-exhaustive, diversion to review the history of patient-centered concepts outlined in seminal literature.

In a 2012 perspective piece published by *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Charles Bardes<sup>4</sup> credited the introduction of the term patient-centered to a psychoanalyst, Enid Balint, in 1969. Contemporary usage of patient-centered care was first detailed in a 1993 report by the Picker/Commonwealth Program for Patient-Centered Care, which identified 8 characteristics that are critical to a patient-centered care model<sup>5</sup>:

- Respect for the patient's values, preferences, and expressed needs;
- Coordinated and integrated care;
- Clear, high-quality information and education for the patient and family;
- Physical comfort, including pain management;
- Emotional support and alleviation of fear and anxiety;
- Involvement of family members and friends, as appropriate;
- Continuity, including through care-site transitions; and
- Access to care.

In 2001, the National Academy of Medicine (then called the Institute of Medicine) stressed the importance of patient-centeredness in future aims to improve quality of care — similarly summarizing the concept as “providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs, and values and ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions.”<sup>6</sup>

---

Corresponding author: Bruce Morgenstern,  
Roseman University College of Medicine, 10530 Discovery Dr.,  
Las Vegas, NV 89135 (bmorgenstern@roseman.edu)

In another 2012 perspective, Barry and Edgman-Levitan pushed this idea a step further, noting, “successfully addressing these dimensions requires enlisting patients and families as allies in designing, implementing, and evaluating care systems,” or, as the title of their paper called it, shared decision-making.<sup>7</sup> To truly evolve to a patient-centered model, there needs to be a culture shift in the design and delivery of care that involves the entire system, “from the parking valet and environmental services staff to c-suite members ... which impacts hiring, training, leadership style, and organizational culture.”<sup>8</sup> Patients and their families also have a new (or at least expanded) role, moving from “passive ‘order taker’ to ... active ‘team member.’”<sup>8</sup>

For 9 years, *JPCRR* has efforted to share, educate, and advance ever-evolving patient-centered concepts within the scientific literature. Since Dr. Baumgardner’s retirement, journal operations have been beautifully overseen by managing editor Joe Grundle and production manager Julie Walters. An involved and insightful editorial board, including Dr. Baumgardner, has stood by to guide these efforts as well. Countless peer reviewers have worked diligently (and volunteered their time and effort, we must highlight) to ensure that *JPCRR* continues to meet the vision laid out so eloquently in that inaugural issue.<sup>1,3</sup>

Emphasizing the ongoing development of patient-centered care was the correct trajectory for *JPCRR* in 2014 and remains so today. I would even suggest the importance of this shift in clinical thinking has grown, as we now face an explosion in medical knowledge, public

health threats, and, sadly, misinformation. *JPCRR*’s mission statement appeared on the first masthead: To further the ongoing quest for new knowledge by providing a medium for the communication of clinical research, with the purpose of improving the quality of human health, the care of the individual patient, and the care of populations.

My goal as editor-in-chief is to keep *JPCRR* faithful to this mission, with a clear patient-centered focus, and with the help of the entire editorial team.

## References

1. Turkal N, Lambrecht RS. Welcome to the Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews. *J Patient Cent Res Rev*. 2014;1:6. [CrossRef](#)
2. Baumgardner DJ. A fond farewell. *J Patient Cent Res Rev*. 2022;9:5-6. [CrossRef](#)
3. Baumgardner DJ. Why patient-centered? *J Patient Cent Res Rev*. 2014;1:7. [CrossRef](#)
4. Bardes CL. Defining “patient-centered medicine.” *N Engl J Med*. 2012;366:782-3. [CrossRef](#)
5. Gerteis M, Edgman-Levitan S, Daley J, Delbanco TL (eds). *Through the Patient's Eyes: Understanding and Promoting Patient-Centered Care*. Jossey-Bass; 1993.
6. National Research Council. *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century*. National Academies Press; 2001. [CrossRef](#)
7. Barry MJ, Edgman-Levitan S. Shared decision making – pinnacle of patient-centered care. *N Engl J Med*. 2012;366:780-1. [CrossRef](#)
8. NEJM Catalyst. What is patient-centered care? Editorial published January 1, 2017; accessed August 29, 2022. [CrossRef](#)

© 2022 Advocate Aurora Health, Inc.