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Letter from the Senior Editor

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‘We must remember that all these bad habits and surroundings are not simply matters of the present generation, but the result of many generations of unhealthy bodies and the structures and policies that have bequeathed to the present generation for impaired vitality and hereditary tendency to disease’ – W.E.B. Dubois

Greeting to all of our JCTP readers!

I am excited to present you with this special issue *Engaging in the Struggle: Health Justice*. This topic is extra special for me because for the first time in the journal’s history we will center health. In past issues, the JCTP has served as a space where scholars could explicitly critique and discuss scholarship centering equitable praxis and practices in education. However, as critical researchers we are aware that the work of equity is not limited to institutions of education but are needed in all institutions that are shaped by social structures. Health Justice is our way of recognizing that present inequalities are not outcomes that once affected our past, but are perpetuated by institutional practices, policies, and programs that continue to affect the livelihood and well-being of marginalized groups/communities. It is our hope that contributing to the discussion on health equity today might contribute to a more equitable tomorrow.

One of my greatest joys as editor is to bring to our readers this compilation of works that center Health Justice. In this issue, scholars, researchers, and practitioners offer unique perspectives to move forward the work of equity for informing classroom curriculums, patient interactions, and engaging research participants. The contributions to this issue expand across multiple topics. Timothy Lee & Sean Ervin comprised a literature review assessing medical education programs in *Cultural Competency Training*, where they propose a unified approach to design new forms of training that foster deeper clinical reasoning and improve patient outcomes. In *Accessibility and Health*, Isaac Christiansen & Robert Mazur examine the relationship between government spending and infant mortality rates (IMR), reporting that spending was higher among poorer nations than wealthier governments.

Other contributions to this special Health Justice issue include essays, interviews, and a book review by Monic P. Behnken, Associate Professor in Sociology at Iowa State University. In *Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care* by Dana Bowen Matthew, Behnken highlights the book’s thesis as an exploration of how racial and ethnic discrimination is recognized as a central contributor to health inequalities. In the essay *Moments in Transgender Healthcare 2004-2018: One Family Doctor’s Perspective*, Joe Freund MD provides an in-depth understanding of the lived experiences of LGBTQ patients, while advocating for more health care providers trained to provide equitable treatment and care. The interviews showed the work of equity from two different perspectives. When building relationships with communities of Color to produce meaningful research, Kinesiologist Scherezade Mama discusses community empowerment and the importance of researchers in acknowledging and valuing the multiple identities of their participants. Jameta N. Barlow, Community Health Psychologist and Assistant Professor uses the lens of Black Feminist praxis and Womanist epistemology to inform her research *Intergenerational Gendered Racialized Trauma* centering Black women and girls. Her work observes the impact of trauma on health status, but extends through ongoing community efforts by inviting participations using the hashtag #ReclaimingBGWH.

Enjoy this issue of Health Justice

Tyanez C. Jones
Senior Editor