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In healthcare, we strive to have excellent care, good outcomes, and healthy communities. But as we know, the “playing field” is not level for all the players. Achieving health equity for vulnerable populations, and eliminating health disparities, is an even more critical issue especially now in the United States. The U.S. Federal Government’s Healthy People 2020 initiative continues to shine a light on the fact that vulnerable populations experience greater obstacles to health based on their religion, racial or ethnic group, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, mental health, disabilities, geographic location, or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.

These facts are very sobering; however, imagine if we were unable to craft a “Healthy People 2030” because we had no disparities? We are a long way away from realizing that dream but a lot of good work is being done to address, and raise awareness for, health disparities.

*Health Equity* was founded to deliver authoritative, peer-reviewed information and contribute to the empowerment of communities to identify and solve pervasive problems related to health and wellness. The Journal is a critical and timely source of information for physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers; policy makers; psychologists and social workers; educators; and researchers; among others. The Journal’s open access format allows for a collaborative, inter- and transdisciplinary space to address practical interventions that will ultimately enhance the lives of patients and collectively aid in the discourse promoting health equity.

We invite you to read, and follow, *Health Equity* for the latest research and debate, and look forward to your contributions to the Journal.

**Ana E. Núñez, MD**
Editor-in-Chief

**Jordan Schilling**
Director of Open Access Publishing
Aims & Scope

Health Equity meets the urgent need for authoritative information about health disparities and health equity among vulnerable populations with the goal of providing optimal outcomes and ultimately health equity for all. With coverage ranging from translational research to prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of disease and illness, the Journal serves as a primary resource for organizations and individuals who serve these populations at the community, state, regional, tribal, and national levels.

The Journal publishes original research, reviews, short reports, and perspectives in all of the areas identified above, as well as Letters to the Editor.

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*Health Equity* is a fully open access journal. The cost of maintaining and publishing the Journal are supported by a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to ensure that it is accessible as widely as possible and to provide a framework for achieving health equity for children, families, and communities by reducing and ultimately eliminating disparities in health and their social, economic, and environmental determinants.

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