FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Advancing the Mountain State, Appalachia, and Beyond

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The Marshall Journal of Medicine was launched in 2015. Since this time we have made substantial progress due to valuable contributions from faculty physicians and researchers, the support of Appalachian and rural health community members, and the interactions from anonymous reviewers and readers in over 144 countries. While meeting competing demands for specialized knowledge and for boundary-spanning solutions to real-world problems, the Marshall Journal of Medicine continuously seeks to bridge the gap between the science and practice of medicine and the knowledge and acumen of our contributors and readership.

On behalf of the Marshall Journal of Medicine Editorial Board, I am pleased to announce that MJM's special issue on "Machine Learning in Rural Health" is now open for submissions. We warmly welcome our Guest Editor Dr. Al Cecchetti as we foray into this topic. As a preview of the focus of our special issue, we have included an introductory editorial by Dr. Cecchetti that highlights the need for machine learning and its future.

The upcoming special issue will represent collaborations among physicians, data scientists, researchers, computer scientists, mathematicians, and engineers working to develop data-driven techniques to identify patterns within medical information. These advances have the power to provide a better understanding of underlying behavioral and social factors contributing to individuals' health conditions and to target interventions accordingly.

The scholarly platform provided by MJM is offering ongoing opportunities for academic faculty and practitioners to have thoughtful conversations about how to facilitate the dialogue between scientists and society to improve the health of our community. As such, we, the Editorial Team, will continue to do our best to make MJM one of the leaders of dialogue serving areas of Appalachia, rural health, and beyond.

I sincerely welcome your continuous contributions.