

## FPHA President's Message for the *Florida Public Health Review*

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**Barbara Richardson, PhD, RN**  
**President, Florida Public Health Association**

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On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Florida Public Health Association, I would like to welcome you to the inaugural edition of the *Florida Public Health Review*. We are excited about the opportunity of not only continuing the rich tradition of having our own public health journal in Florida, but also of taking the journal to new levels that are now possible with the on-line format and with the dual focus on both the public health workforce and the academic communities in the state.

Our great appreciation is extended to those who have committed their time and talents over many years to maintain the *Florida Journal of Public Health* as a journal with high standards, quality articles, and a professional appearance. Clara H. Lawhead is to be commended for her hard work as the Editor-In-Chief of the *Journal* since 1992. In addition, thanks are expressed to all of the contributors, sponsors, editors, assistants, and advisors who have done their parts in keeping the *Journal* afloat since its inception in 1987.

As with the old *Journal*, the new *FPHR* will need the support and input from Florida's public health community. Under the direction and leadership of Dr. Robert McDermott at the University of South Florida College of Public Health, many talented students and committed public health professionals will help get the new *FPHR* off the ground. Where and how far it goes is up to each and every one of us.

The Florida Public Health Association is a key partner in this endeavor and plans to ensure distribution of *FPHR* announcements to its membership, to encourage submissions from members from all areas of public health, and to promote the *FPHR* within our current publications, our website, and at our conferences. Many exciting ideas and potential opportunities involving the *FPHR* have been discussed within FPHA. Through our representation and active participation on the journal's Board of Editors, we will strive to make the *FPHR* invaluable to our membership and to all public health students, practitioners, administrators, and researchers throughout the state.

I encourage you all to think creatively, to contribute to the *FPHR* in whatever capacity best suits your talents, and to utilize the *FPHR* on an ongoing basis as your source of communication about public health practice, education, and research in

Florida. Please join us in celebrating and enjoying the inaugural edition of the *Florida Public Health Review*.



**Barbara Richardson** is with the Area Health Education Center program, University of Florida. She is completing her term as President of the Florida Public Health Association in 2004.