
Editorial

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Healthcare and healthcare quality are topics of relevance in the US debate, in a country that spends upwards to 17.9% of its GDP on healthcare related expenses, leaving many residents with no coverage; when other countries spend as little as 10.7%, while offering more coverage to their residents. It is against this backdrop the newly enacted Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA), commonly known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or *Obamacare* was enacted in order to start turning the tide. Only four years after the passage of the ACA, there are positive signs in the US economy the tide is turning indeed.¹

The five drafts in this edition focused on topics relevant to either healthcare quality or healthcare. Given the critical nature of quality in reducing healthcare costs; resulting in making healthcare affordable; this, eventually, making healthcare accessible to as many individuals as possible, which constitutes 'universal healthcare' the Sharma and Gupta article in this special edition purport to thoroughly explore quality management in healthcare, performing a rigorous and computer-assisted literature review of this topic. The article by Knepper, Sonenberg, and Levine discusses the critical role Nurse Practitioners (NP) started to play in expanding the primary care provider base, in view of the goal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) started to play in January 2014, which was and remains to expand healthcare coverage to millions of Americans in the context of an existing primary care provider shortage. The Gagnou-Savatier and Mercier study introduces an oncological paediatric service with a window into what universal healthcare looks like: it is a case study used to discuss sensemaking and discourse ethics within the context of caregiving, building ethical competence in providing the best care possible to children in a paediatric facility. The purpose of this case study was to show embedded in the notion of *healthcare*, there was the notion of *care* which needed no legislation. The Etoung article offered a novel and almost ground-breaking approach to healthcare and medicine labelled Motivation-Medicine[®]. This study reflected on healthcare and motivation-medicine, the medical profession, and the future of cell research, yet, introducing a new understanding of the manner the public has so far viewed medical doctors. In the ACA era, Motivation-Medicine[®] may offer a holistic and alternative way to think of quality, affordability, and access in healthcare. The Essounga-Njan article looked at the critical nature of quality and standards in delivering and managing healthcare in the USA, and in the rest of the world, if one desired services to be provided in a seamless way, regardless of the country and the national culture. The review showed the USA to be lagging compared to Europe in the field of healthcare, the reason why *Obamacare* is a positive step forward. All articles in this edition centre around one common thread: healthcare, healthcare quality, and standards.

Note

1 <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>