Dear Readers—With this issue, we bid adieu to our editor in chief since 2006, Thomas C. Ricketts III, PhD, MPH. Dr. Ricketts has been a great leader of the NCMJ. He has extensive knowledge of the health care system, health professional workforce, and public health at the state, national, and international levels. His knowledge of health and health care in North Carolina combined with his experience in journalism has been a great asset to the journal. We will miss his counsel and guidance.

Dr. Ricketts helped shepherd in several changes to the journal. During his tenure, we changed our name from the North Carolina Medical Journal to the NCMJ, signifying that many of the health issues covered in the NCMJ are not purely medical in nature. Dr. Ricketts also helped increase the NCMJ’s online presence, and suggested a number of special articles on topics of particular interest to our readers.

We wish him the best as he continues in his positions of professor of health policy and management at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill), professor of social medicine at the School of Medicine, UNC-Chapel Hill, deputy director of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, UNC-Chapel Hill, and visiting professor with École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (School for Advanced Studies in Public Health) in Paris and Rennes, France.

At this time, we would also like to welcome Peter J. Morris, MD, MPH, MDiv, as the NCMJ’s new editor in chief. He brings a wealth and breadth of experience to this role, as well as enthusiasm and vision. Dr. Morris practices pediatrics, epidemiology, and preventive medicine at Wake County Human Services. He currently serves as the organization’s medical director where he oversees all aspects of clinical care, and also serves as the compliance officer leading quality assurance and quality improvement accreditation efforts. In addition, Dr. Morris is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is past president of the North Carolina Pediatric Society and the Wake County Medical Society, and currently serves as the president of the North Carolina Pediatric Society Foundation. In addition, he is a hospitalist at WakeMed Health and Hospitals where he teaches and mentors students and residents practicing pediatrics. He also serves on the board of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, chairs the board of Action for Children North Carolina, and co-chairs the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force.

Although Dr. Morris is formally trained as a pediatrician, he has experience in providing and managing public health, mental health, and social services. He has served as Wake County Human Services’ liaison to the North Carolina Association of Directors of Social Services, the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, and the North Carolina Council of Community Programs. In addition to all of these roles, he has practiced pediatric medicine in a small rural community in Kentucky, as well as in Wake County.

Dr. Morris received both his medical degree and master’s in public health in epidemiology from UNC-Chapel Hill, and his master’s degree in divinity from Duke University. He is board certified in both pediatrics and preventive medicine.

We enthusiastically welcome our new editor in chief to the NCMJ, and we look forward to his leadership and the new ideas he brings. NCMJ

Pam Silberman, JD, DrPH
Co-Publisher, NCMJ