When my teacher, colleague, and friend, Dr. Stan Shulman, asked me to be a guest editor for *Pediatric Annals*, focusing on general and office-based pediatrics, I was extremely honored. I gave this considerable thought and decided to concentrate on what made pediatrics enjoyable and sustainable. In other words, how to enhance your pediatric practice. After completing residency, I joined a practice that had not only served our community for many decades but also had close ties with a medical school and major children’s hospital, which seemed like the best of both worlds: clinical and academic medicine. I not only learned the skills to run a busy practice but also developed academic interests and engaged in various medical leadership roles, including being the community liaison for contributed service faculty for our department.

The first article describes the needs and opportunities for the community-based physician to develop in academic interests (see page 342). My hope is not only for community based physicians to get some ideas on how they can contribute to the academics of medicine but also for department chairs, medical school, and residency directors to learn how to engage the community physicians, who have a variety of interests and expertise.

These include an article written by my colleague and partner, Valerie Kimball (see page 347), which illustrates how the physician office can serve to provide practical, hands-on experience for the physician in training.

As many or most of us have been engaged in research at some point in our medical training or careers, Eric Slora and Richard Wasserman (page 352) describe the opportunities available through the Pediatric Research in Office Setting (PROS), supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). They describe how all of us can continue to make meaningful research contributions by using our offices, knowledge, and skill sets through this worthy network.

The next article (see page 362) brings practicality to enhancing a pediatric practice by understanding coding and billing, resulting in prompt and improved reimbursement. It is written by Edward S. Traisman, a third-generation pediatrician in his family and a partner in the same practice his grandfather established more than 80 years ago. I have been fortunate to be part of this practice for more than 25 years and also to have a partner in the practice who is passionate about billing and coding.

Finally, Ed Pont, who preceded me as president of the Illinois Chapter of the AAP, is a committed advocate for the medical home and writes about his personal experience in integrating this model for routine and complex patients (see page 370).

I have asked my fellow authors, where appropriate, to integrate some of their personal experiences into their respective articles. I wish to include some anecdotal accounts with which all of us can identify.

Pediatrics encompasses many exciting opportunities, and my hope is that all my colleagues who care for children will be able to enhance their practice, as well as their careers as a result of this month’s issue of *Pediatric Annals*.

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Dr. Benuck has been involved in preventive pediatric healthcare since joining the faculty. He has conducted research in preventive cardiology, identifying children who may be at risk for cardiovascular disease, has published in this field, and is a member of the expert panel for the Pediatric Cardiovascular Risk Reduction initiative for the National Institute of Health (NIH) Heart, Lung, and Blood Disease Institute. In addition, he has conducted research, developed strategies, and published on tobacco prevention and intervention. Dr. Benuck has lectured extensively in these areas in numerous venues, including grand rounds, and continuing medical education (CME)-sponsored events locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. He serves as the attending physician at the Preventive Cardiology Program at CMH.

Dr. Benuck has served on numerous committees and leadership positions at the FSM, Northwestern University, and within the medical community. He is a past president of the medical/dental staff at CMH, founding president of Children’s Community Physician’s Association, and is currently president of the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). He has been honored to receive numerous awards, including the Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence at FSM, the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the FSM, as well as the Alumni Service Award from Northwestern University. Of course, his greatest reward is the privilege to care for the numerous patients in his practice and provide for them a road map for healthy lifestyles.