

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Welcome to the very first issue of FAPPulse. We've tried to put together an issue that would appeal not only to FAPP members, but also to those who work within the Bureau and at Valley Ambulance either alongside us or who support us in more indirect ways. We've collected contributions from FAPP President Tom Broderick, FAPP members, Bureau of EMS Chief Robert Kennedy, and Medical Director Dr. Paul Paris. This issue contains information about permanent certification, EMS Week, committee updates, and the ever-pressing issue of expanded scope of practice.

When I began writing this introductory editorial to the latest attempt at producing a newsletter, the issue of expanded scope of practice occupied a prominent place in my mind. Maybe that's because I had spoken to Dr. Paris a few hours earlier about addressing that topic, or maybe it's because everywhere we look as prehospital care providers we are reminded of the youth of our profession compared to other medical specialties, and we are faced with the increasing battle over who gets what part of the medical insurance pie. I suppose I could be considered closed-minded because the idea of spending all day in an elementary school doing TB tests or teaching CPR to community groups night after night doesn't particularly appeal to me. I became a paramedic because I liked the diversity of the job and because I wanted to make a difference, and because of the excitement we occasionally encounter.

As expanded scope of practice promises to increase our knowledge and grant us more skills and responsibilities, perhaps the most important thing to remember is that most of us in EMS share a common desire - the desire to help people. Sometimes that help comes via technology like defibrillation or endotracheal intubation; sometimes that help comes as a fellow human being holding the hand of an elderly patient whose life has drastically changed due to sudden illness or injury, or as the caregiver who can calm a frightened child - and his distraught parents.

As we celebrate EMS Week, let's buckle our seatbelts and hold on for what promises to be a wild and bumpy ride, and let's adjust our mindsets to accept inevitable change. But let's also remember in the midst of the rollercoaster that, wherever the ride stops, there will never be a decline in the demand for compassion.

Paula R. Alexander  
Pittsburgh Medic 1  
Editor-in-Chief