This issue of *Health and Human Rights* includes both original unsolicited articles on a range of topics and the first component of a special thematic issue that will continue in Volume 9, Number 2 focused on rights-based approaches to health. In April 2005, the Institute of Human Rights of Emory University, with the World Health Organization (WHO), CARE USA, The Carter Center human rights office, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Doctors for Global Health, co-sponsored a conference that explored evidence-based relationships between health and human rights. This conference brought together public health, human rights and development professionals and students from around the world. Presenters were invited to submit manuscripts based on their work to *Health and Human Rights* for potential inclusion in a special thematic issue on rights-based approaches to health. An overwhelming number of manuscripts were received, and each went through the journal’s extensive peer-review process. We were pleased to receive so many manuscripts considered to be of high-quality by reviewers but consequently have accepted more pieces than can comfortably fit in one issue. Articles based on original research relating to rights-based approaches will form the basis of the next issue of the journal. This issue contains the commentaries received through this process, as well as articles received through our normal channels. We trust you will enjoy the range of pieces presented here and look forward to hearing from you as we explore the diversity of issues that constitute the world of health and human rights.

Sofia Gruskin
Editor

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