In the era of panel management, I was surprised to learn that of nearly 2200 patients I provide primary care for, over 800 of these patients have diabetes. Many of these patients have complications of diabetes, and while many are well controlled, it is common for patients to inquire about new treatment and glucose-monitoring options. Certainly, the management of diabetes has changed dramatically since I finished training in the late 1990s. There are more oral medications, more insulins and insulin combinations, more novel classes of drugs, and avant-garde technology that allows for beaming your glucose reading to your cell phone and computer.

As Dr Salzberg highlights in his preface, the health care workforce is strained to meet the demand of endocrinologists to care for all of our diabetic patients. Moreover, primary care workforce shortages also abound despite the integration of more advanced practice providers. Clinical pharmacists are playing a large role in longitudinal management of our diabetic patients and helping to improve outcomes. This paradigm has expanded medical student and resident education to show a comprehensive and team-based approach to diabetes management.

I would like to thank Dr Salzberg and his authors for compiling a very complete guide to caring for diabetic patients in primary care practices and in the inpatient setting. Impressively, articles herein address both common and practical topics while expanding to more comprehensive subtopics across various populations. These include strategies for the care of pregnant women with diabetes, patients with disordered eating and depression, and those with common to more rare complications from diabetes. Sections on pharmacology highlight not only how medications work but also best indications and potential adverse effects. The article I learned the most from details resources for diabetic patients, which always seems to be a challenge, and the barriers are often moving targets. I hope that you will find this issue of Primary Care: Clinics in

Diabetes Management
Office Practice to be a useful and informative guide to comprehensive diabetes care with which to transform and augment the care of your diabetic patients.

Joel J. Heidelbaugh, MD, FAAFP, FACG
Departments of Family Medicine and Urology
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Ypsilanti Health Center
200 Arnet Suite 200
Ypsilanti, MI 48198, USA

E-mail address:
jheidel@umich.edu