# **Special Issue**

# Disparities in Primary Health Care in Rural versus Urban Areas

# Message from the Guest Editor

Many of the inequities in health result from a wide range of social, economic, and political circumstances or factors that differentially affect the distribution of health within a population. Although there is fragmented work on primary health care, no comprehensive evaluation has been made to date on the socioeconomic disparities affecting rural versus urban primary health care. The study of disparities in primary care is imperative since research has shown that primary care may reduce the negative health effects of economic inequality on health and mortality. An examination of the primary care system should begin by looking at both supply and demand issues in health care as it currently exists. On the supply side, one needs to evaluate health care resource supplies in rural versus urban regions. Equally important as the supply side, on the demand side one should seek to understand behavioral differences associated with healthcare use, stratified by socioeconomic status, such as age, race, income, and gender. The purpose of this call for papers is to theoretically address these issues comprehensively and to report results from empirical work based on rural areas.

## **Guest Editor**

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