



## Editorial:

The transition to a more equitable, fair and socially sustainable continues as new policies, strategies and legislation hallmark increased efforts to refine health and social systems. Only now, for example, are we asking for better data and admitting that for many years there has been a lack of globally coordinated health data. Measurement and accountability, because of this, have not been globally clear. And as this new Call to Action to understand the world picture in more comprehensive fashion defines a revolution in data collection and methodology, we see the Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriages granting equal dignity in the eyes of the Constitution.

It is clear that our epoch will be marked by increased and concerted efforts to not only drive social inclusion, but the social participation of diverse identities composing the modern world. On the one hand, we will seek to better data on the changing demographics and health-disparities and on the other, drive to overcome social disparities through participatory research which brings voices to policy design and legislative change. This is where we can find the meaning of a culturally competent system (social, health, educational), one where equity and tolerance can only exist through participation and mutual understanding.

Thus whether we strive to refine data, enhance participation, push for equality, we can only do so by addressing the needs, and values, of culturally diverse groups. In this way, as the works herein evidence, there is a direct relation between culture and health practices, and ultimately, the need for care providers to engage in culturally competent and meaningful processes.

Each study presents a unique perspective on improving the cultural competence of both the health and social systems, for each study provides as with an understanding of social populations, one that can ultimately refine practices and the overarching *rules of engagement*.