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*Advancing Health and Health Care through Scholarship and Action*

## Alumni Corner

### Words of Wisdom: National Meeting Then and Now

*Bob Brook, UCLA*

The national meetings were and are great. Young people with strong moral compasses come together to form lasting relationships that will be dedicated to improving the health and health care of the world. What could be more important? The rest of the meeting is anticlimactic by comparison. However, the rapidity of change is increasing exponentially. In the next 10 years we will have artificial intelligence and machine learning that may eliminate many medical specialties, an internet that knows everything, individual 3D printers that allow us to print our own drug that will change our mood for a day, marijuana that is ubiquitous, cities underwater, tens of millions of displaced people, and wars if we have them that are fought by robots. The national meetings are a time to facilitate disruptive and painful conversations among ourselves. These conversations help us understand the work we can do together across sites and the changes that are occurring all around us so that we can use our professional skill sets that are guided by our moral compass to ensure that the planet and humans survive and thrive, and that equity is achieved. We need to remember that we are doing this for our children or in my case grandchildren and the most underrepresented persons in our group are Republicans-- we must invite them to be part of the conversation. Otherwise we will fail.

