Editorial

Enhancing the *JMD* Experience

As *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics* begins publication of its tenth volume, our world is becoming increasingly driven by the need for immediacy. We rely more heavily on electronic communication and instant access to accurate information. The *Journal* and its Editorial Board are responding to this by increasing the frequency of publication, providing greater dissemination of the *JMD*, and taking steps to ensure the integrity of the publication process. All of these pursuits serve to enhance the experience of our authors and readers.

Foremost in our quest for greater enhancement is the need to provide timely publication of accepted manuscripts. We have remained cognizant of this fact while experiencing continual growth of submissions to the *Journal*. Thus, we are pleased to announce that, beginning with this issue, the *JMD* will be published six times annually. This affords our authors with earlier exposure of their research and gives our readers faster access to data and results. Further, with our online publish-ahead-of-print program, author-corrected article proofs are posted to the *JMD* website (<http://jmd.amjpathol.org/papbyrecent.dtl>) 4 to 8 weeks after final manuscript acceptance. This new feature, called JMDxpress, was successfully launched last year. By providing a fully citable version of the manuscript, we can establish earlier publication priority of articles. Also, using a version of the article that has undergone preliminary copyediting and author correction ensures the quality of the information.

Dissemination of information is the primary goal of any publication, and the influence of electronic media has resulted in the expectation that published research be more readily available. The *Journal* is adapting by expanding electronic publication of accepted articles. We have partnered with PubMed Central to post published *JMD* articles to their repository (<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>) for public access twelve months after print publication, which is the same point when articles become freely accessible on the *Journal* site. This electronic publishing approach makes articles available as widely as possible, thus increasing reader awareness and author citations.

Successful scientific publishing requires that the integrity of the reported data be guaranteed. This expectation of honesty and integrity is held by three parties: the readers, the *Journal*, and the authors. Readers trust that

articles published in *JMD* have undergone thorough, unbiased review. The *Journal* also trusts its authors to submit studies that have been performed ethically. Likewise, Authors trust the *Journal* to provide fair and timely peer review of submitted manuscripts. In a committed effort to safeguard these relationships, the *Journal* has produced a formal Scientific Integrity Policy (<http://jmd.amjpathol.org/misc/integrity.shtml>). As the publishers of *JMD*, the Association for Molecular Pathology and the American Society for Investigative Pathology vetted and approved the policy, which defines expectations for *Journal* reviewers, Editors, and staff in the peer-review process. Authors are also clearly instructed on authorship criteria, conflicts of interest, and research misconduct—such as falsification of data and images, plagiarism, redundant publication, and ethical conduct of research subjects. When concerns do arise, the process for addressing them is clearly outlined, including guidelines for evaluating allegations and addressing findings of misconduct. Concomitantly, we have updated and revised our Instructions to Authors (<http://jmd.amjpathol.org/misc/fora.shtml>) and Instructions to Reviewers (<http://jmd.amjpathol.org/misc/forReviewers.shtml>).

All in all, we are committed to growing and improving *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics* by enhancing the value of published articles. We encourage our audience to continue to support the *Journal* by submitting quality manuscripts that advance the field of molecular diagnostics. Current article categories include Regular Articles, Technical Advances, Reviews, and case-oriented Consultations in Molecular Diagnostics, and we encourage authors to establish a dialogue surrounding key or controversial issues by submitting Letters to the Editor. We in turn will continue our commitment to quality scientific publishing by seeking new methods of improving the reader and author experience.

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