

Changes for 2021

As we begin our third year as editors in chief, we are excited about some important changes we are implementing in JTH.

The first is a revamping of how our journal appoints members of its editorial board. In recent years, our journal's custom was to invite the most active peer reviewers to serve as editorial board members, as a way of recognizing their strong contributions to the journal. Unfortunately, this led to a preponderance of male editorial board members, with a heavy bias toward western Europe and North America. In their 2017 study, Helmer et al.¹ reported that women are substantially underrepresented in the peer review process of scientific journals compared to their frequency as authors. Furthermore, they found a strong same-gender preference among editors in choosing reviewers for manuscripts, which was more entrenched among male editors. (These investigators studied the Frontiers series journals because they generally disclose peer reviewers and associate editors, but it seems likely that their findings apply to most scientific journals.)

To begin to address this at JTH, we have "re-booted" our editorial board for 2021 by inviting a balance of women and men as well as a better geographic balance, drawn from the list of some of our most active reviewers in recent years. As a result, our editorial board for the first time has approximately equal numbers of men and women. We also have tried to achieve a better balance of topic areas among our editorial board membership. Our efforts regarding our editorial board dovetail with our ongoing efforts to achieve a better gender balance of associate editors. In addition, we are now including language in our instructions to associate editors reminding them of the importance in inviting reviewers of both genders as well as members of underrepresented minorities. Also, we routinely ask (but do not require) authors to recommend possible reviewers of their submitted manuscript, and we will now include language reminding them of the desirability of diversity among reviewers. We pledge to continually to work with our

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editors, reviewers and authors toward the goal of overcoming systemic bias in scientific publishing and we welcome input from our readers on this important topic.

The second major change that readers will see in the journal for 2021 is the introduction of a new clinical management series, titled JTH in Clinic (JTHiC). The generation of this series has been led by one of our Associate Editors, Jean Connors, and Dr. Connors has written an accompanying Commentary in this issue to introduce the background, intent and format of the JTHiC articles.

While of course review articles for clinical care are not novel, for the JTHiC series we will purposely be choosing scenarios where strong evidence for management choices does not exist. This is a frequent situation in hemostasis and thrombosis, where disease frequencies are often very low and the potential for conducting prospective randomized trials is extremely limited. The other feature that will be incorporated into the JTHiC series is the rapid integration of novel therapies with potential advantages over existing interventions. This feature will be exemplified by the first two JTHiC articles in which novel uses of two antibody-mediated therapies, the use of caplacizumab in acquired TTP and emicizumab in acquired hemophilia A will form the basis for the guidance discussions.

One thing that will not change in the content in JTH for 2021 will be the unique mix of high quality basic and clinical hemostasis and thrombosis reviews and study reports. The ISTH through its journals and congresses presents the most comprehensive reporting of important new developments in our field. In 2020, this fact was highlighted by the enormous interest generated by the COVID-19 associated coagulopathy with >700 manuscripts submitted to the journal describing pathophysiologic, diagnostic and therapeutic developments of this disease complication.

In 2021, we look forward to receiving manuscripts from scientists and clinicians from all corners of the globe and commit to providing our authors and readers with timely and informed reviews, and the publication of the most important and exciting developments in the field of thrombosis and hemostasis.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy 2021.

James H. Morrissey¹

David Lillicrap²

*¹Departments of Biological Chemistry & Internal Medicine,
University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI, USA*

*²Department of Pathology & Molecular Medicine,
Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada*

REFERENCE

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