

BRIEF COMMENTARY

How Scientific Journals Work

JACEP Open annual report 2021**Henry E. Wang MD, MS**

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Email: henry.wang@osumc.edu; jacepic@gmail.com**Abstract**This report summarizes the status and performance of the *Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians* for 2021.**KEYWORDS**

emergency medicine, publications

1 | OVERVIEW

JACEP Open published its first works in late 2019, and its first complete issue in early 2020. We continue to experience sustained growth in our second full year of operations, achieving many important milestones and establishing *JACEP Open* as a major player among emergency medicine journals. In this report, we summarize the journal's performance and accomplishments for 2021.

2 | STATUS OF THE JOURNAL

The *Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians Open* (*JACEP Open*) was accepted for inclusion in PubMed Central in October 2020, making all articles searchable in PubMed. In addition, in April 2021, the journal was accepted to the Web of Science (WoS) for coverage in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), which is an important first step toward achieving an impact factor.

3 | EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE

The journal received >650 manuscripts during 2021, a figure consistent with manuscript volumes for 2020 (Table 1). Original research, brief reports, reviews, and concept pieces comprised approximately half of all submissions. Case reports and images in emergency medicine comprised the remaining one-half of submissions. Approximately 32% of submissions originated from outside the United States, and 398

TABLE 1 Types of submitted manuscripts

Article type	2019	2020	2021
Brief commentary	2	11	4
Brief research report	3	68	46
Case report	19	134	127
Concepts	7	69	33
Editorial	0	8	4
Images in emergency medicine	19	146	173
<i>JACEP Open</i> podcast summary	0	3	4
Letter to the Editor–correspondence	0	14	9
Original research	36	226	200
Review article	9	49	20
Special contribution	2	8	12
Systematic review/meta-analysis	2	14	16
Videos in emergency medicine	0	0	3
Total	99	750	651

manuscripts were transferred from *JACEP Open*'s companion journal, *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

The journal's acceptance rate was 26% for scientific works (original research, brief reports, systematic reviews, reviews, and concept papers) (Table 2). The journal's 81 accepted scientific works spanned a range of topic areas (Table 3). Accepted manuscripts included authors from 28 different countries.

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TABLE 2 Acceptance rates

Article type	Acceptance rate ^a
Scientific works—original research, brief reports, systematic reviews, reviews, and concepts	81/312 (26%)
Case reports	25/125 (20%)
Images in emergency medicine	86/165 (52%)

^aDoes not include works in the “revise” status.

TABLE 3 Topic areas of scientific works (original research, brief reports, systematic reviews, reviews, and concepts papers) submitted in 2021

Topic area	Number of works
Airway	4 (4.5%)
Cardiology	5 (5.6%)
Disaster and terrorism	3 (3.4%)
Education	1 (1.1%)
Emergency medical services	12 (13.5%)
Evidence-based emergency medicine	3 (3.4%)
General medicine	7 (7.9%)
Geriatrics	1 (1.1%)
Health policy	4 (4.5%)
Imaging	3 (3.4%)
Infectious disease	15 (1.1%)
Injury prevention	1 (1.1%)
Neurology	1 (1.1%)
Obstetrics and gynecology	2 (2.2%)
Pain management	2 (2.2%)
Pediatrics	5 (5.6%)
Physician wellness	4 (4.5%)
Pulmonary	1 (1.1%)
Practice of emergency medicine	9 (10.1%)
Toxicology	2 (2.2%)
Trauma	4 (4.5%)
Total	89

The journal continued to encourage the submission of COVID-19 works by waiving the article publication fee. The journal published a total of 40 COVID-19–related articles, including 27 original research articles, 3 reviews, and 3 case reports.

JACEP Open's editorial and production processes continue to meet rapid internal benchmarks (Table 4). Time from manuscript submission to first decision was a median of 18 days. Time from acceptance to publication was a median of 36 days.

4 | MANUSCRIPT ACCESS AND CITATIONS

As an open access journal, all *JACEP Open* content is fully accessible to the entire world without a subscription barrier. During 2021,

TABLE 4 Editorial and production performance

Metric	Time
Manuscript submission to first decision, median (IQR)	18 days (IQR, 5–29)
Manuscript submission to final decision, median (IQR)	38 days (IQR, 10–79)
Manuscript acceptance to production, median (IQR)	1 day (IQR, 0–2)
Manuscript acceptance to proof	14 days
Manuscript acceptance to publication	36 days

Abbreviation: IQR, interquartile range.

there were a total of 528,720 full-text accesses of *JACEP Open* articles. Table 5 summarizes the journal's most accessed articles. Individuals from 214 countries accessed *JACEP Open* articles; the international countries with the highest number of full-text accesses were the United Kingdom, India, and China. To date, *JACEP Open* publications have been cited 487 times by published biomedical journals.

5 | NEWS MEDIA, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND ONLINE PRESENCE

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) promoted *JACEP Open* using multiple outlets. *JACEP Open* research and thought leadership was featured 88 times in leading publications. News stories were generated in mainstream media outlets such as *MSN*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Forbes*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Yahoo! Finance*, and *Markets Insider* (Table 6). Additional outlets that featured *JACEP Open* include *Physician's Weekly*, *MD Edge*, *The Science Times*, *Journal of Emergency Medical Services*, and *EMS World*.

JACEP Open promotes the journal through social media outlets, including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. The Twitter account received 30,964 impressions, whereas the Facebook account received 5487 engagements (Table 7). The journal has 536 followers on Twitter. The Instagram account is used to promote the journal's new Videos of Emergency Medicine section. Altmetric scores offer additional insights of *JACEP Open*'s impact on social and public media (Table 8).

JACEP Open also produces a bimonthly podcast featuring timely or controversial articles from the journal (<https://soundcloud.com/jacepopen>). The journal inaugurated the publication of podcast summaries to accompany each podcast.

6 | EDITORIAL BOARD

The talented members of the *JACEP Open* editorial board play pivotal roles in the success of the journal. In addition to serving as decision editors for all submitted manuscripts, editorial board members also help to drive the direction of the journal. The current editorial board includes 40 editors, including 15 women and 5 international editors. In April 2021, 4 individuals were promoted to the newly created role

TABLE 5 Most accessed articles in 2021

Article title	Article type	Full-text accesses
"The 'Double Eights Mask Brace' Improves the Fit and Protection of a Basic Surgical Mask Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12335)	Brief research report	74,424
"Myocarditis and Pericarditis After Vaccination for COVID-19" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12498)	Case report	33,311
"Young Man With a Diffuse Rash and Red Eyes After Recovery From COVID-2019" (https://doi.org/10.1002/EMP2.12404)	Images in emergency medicine	7579
"COVID 19 Infection: Pediatric Perspectives" (https://doi.org/10.1002/EMP2.12375)	Review article	6350
"Hyperkalemia Management in the Emergency Department: An Expert Panel Consensus" (https://doi.org/10.1002/EMP2.12572)	Special contribution	4061
"The Age-Old Question: Thematic Analysis of Focus Groups on Physician Experiences of Aging in Emergency Medicine" (https://doi.org/10.1002/EMP2.12499)	Original research	3975
"Toxicity of Herbal Medications Suggested as Treatment for COVID-19: A Narrative Review" (https://doi.org/10.1002/EMP2.12411)	Review article	3627
"Safety of Air Medical Transport of Patients With COVID-19 by Personnel Using Routine Personal Protective Equipment" (https://doi.org/10.1002/EMP2.12389)	Original research	2966
"Quantitative Pleural Line Characterization Outperforms Traditional Lung Texture Ultrasound Features in Detection of COVID-19" (https://doi.org/10.1002/EMP2.12418)	Original research	2396
"Characteristics and Outcomes of Adverse Events After COVID-19 Vaccination" (https://doi.org/10.1002/EMP2.12565)	Original research	2335

of Senior Editor. In addition to assisting the Editor in Chief with overall leadership of the journal, the Senior Editors provide guidance and mentorship for other editorial board members. Three individuals serve as methodology–statistics editors; these individuals all have doctorate-level training in epidemiology and advanced research methodology. The methodology–statistics editors provide expert assessment of all original research manuscripts with more advanced statistical and analytic methods.

The journal initiated a new Assistant Editor program in early 2021. The objective of the Assistant Editor program is to enable talented early-stage academicians to participate in the *JACEP Open* editorial process, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the depth and diversity

TABLE 6 Leading media exposure for *JACEP Open* articles in 2021

Media article	Associated <i>JACEP Open</i> article
"Should I Use a Brace or Double-Masking to Block Coronavirus?" <i>Forbes</i> , February 28, 2021; https://www.forbes.com/sites/jvchamary/2021/02/27/coronavirus-double-masking-mask-brace-fitter/?sh=224e323c6910	"The 'Double Eights Mask Brace' Improves the Fit and Protection of a Basic Surgical Mask Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12335)
"Everything You Need to Know About Mask Braces: Do They Work? Can You Make Your Own?" <i>Popular Mechanics</i> , February 17, 2021; https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/health/a35520817/what-is-a-mask-brace/	"The 'Double Eights Mask Brace' Improves the Fit and Protection of a Basic Surgical Mask Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12335)
"ER Visits Remain Down Across the Philadelphia Region, as COVID-19 Fears Keep People Home," <i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i> , March 27, 2021; https://www.inquirer.com/business/health/chop-penn-medicine-main-line-tower-emergency-visits-decline-covid-19-20210327.html	"Delayed Emergencies: The Composition and Magnitude of Non-Respiratory Emergency Department Visits During the COVID-19 Pandemic" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12349)

TABLE 7 Top viewed Twitter posts for 2021 *JACEP Open* articles

Article	Twitter source
"Improving Transitions of Care for Patients Initiated on Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder From the Emergency Departments in King County, Washington" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12408)	https://twitter.com/JACEPOpen/status/1379811401405988864?s=20
"Clinical Characteristics of COVID-19 Patients Evaluated in the Emergency Department: A Retrospective Cohort Study of 801 Cases" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12538)	https://twitter.com/JACEPOpen/status/1437446353005723651?s=20
"Applying Crisis Standards of Care to Critically Ill Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Does Race/Ethnicity Affect Triage Scoring?" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12502)	https://twitter.com/JACEPOpen/status/1436313528240066560?s=20

of the editorial board. Assistant Editors are paired with a more experienced editor as a mentor and meet regularly to discuss the editorial process, challenging editorial decisions and professional directions. *JACEP Open* recruited an inaugural group of 6 Assistant Editors, all of whom have graduated to full editorial board roles. An additional 4

TABLE 8 Top Altmetric scores for 2021 *JACEP Open* articles

Title	Altmetric score
"Myocarditis and Pericarditis After Vaccination for COVID-19" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12498)	315
"Toxicity of Herbal Medications Suggested as Treatment for COVID-19: A Narrative Review" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12411)	137
"Artificial Intelligence Machine Learning for the Detection and Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation Guidelines in the Emergency Department Setting (AIM HIGHER): Assessing a Machine Learning Clinical Decision Support Tool to Detect and Treat Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation in the Emergency Department" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12534)	62
"Call Volume, Triage Outcomes, and Protocols During the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United Kingdom: Results of a National Survey" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12492)	53
"Ultra-High Dose Intravenous Nitroglycerin in an ESRD Patient With Acutely Decompensated Heart Failure" (https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12387)	35

Assistant Editors have been recruited for 2022, including 3 women and 1 international editor.

7 | PEER REVIEWERS

Peer reviewers are essential to the operations of the journal. Currently, there are >645 individuals in *JACEP Open*'s pool of primary reviewers. Through connections with *Annals of Emergency Medicine* and Wiley publishing, *JACEP Open* has access to an additional 425 peer reviewers. In 2021, *JACEP Open* peer reviewers completed 679 assignments. *JACEP Open* recognized the top 20 peer reviewers for 2021 (Table 9). In conjunction with Wiley, Inc, *JACEP Open* began offering continuing medical education credits to all peer reviewers. The journal also created a new section of the journal website with resources for training and onboarding new peer reviewers.

8 | EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

Members of the *JACEP Open* editorial board joined forces with members of the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* editorial board to provide an author's workshop at the 2021 ACEP Scientific Assembly. The workshop provided guidance and pearls for successful biomedical publishing. The Editor in Chief conducted a similar workshop for the ACEP International Section.

TABLE 9 Top *JACEP Open* peer reviewers for 2021

Recognized reviewers
David Barlas, MD
Craig Beringer, MBBch, MMed
Jason J. Bischof, MD
Katherine Buck, MD
Stephen Cantrill, MD
Rebecca Cash, PhD, MPH
James Chan, MD
Neeraj Chhabra, MD
David Cone, MD
Remle Crowe, PhD, NREMT
Katherine Edmunds, MD
Susan M. Fuchs, MD
Dan Mayer, MD
Eric Melnychuk, DO
Michael Moss, MD
Debra Perina, MD
David Pigott, MD
Fred Severyn, MD
Karl Sporer, MD
Howard Werman, MD

9 | DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVE

Ensuring adequate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a critical strategic goal for the journal. Practices aligned with DEI are necessary to ensure that the journal achieves a balanced, unbiased operation with fair representation of all backgrounds in all key roles, including authors, peer reviewers, editors, and editorial managers.

In 2021, *JACEP Open* conducted several activities as part of an organized DEI initiative. The journal appointed a DEI Task Force consisting of 3 editorial board members, with ad hoc input from the Senior Editors and the Editor in Chief. The DEI Task Force developed and disseminated the journal's DEI statement. The Task Force was also charged with identifying strategic areas for enhancing DEI and monitoring the results of DEI initiatives.

JACEP Open's DEI statement is available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/26881152/homepage/deistatement>. Several initiatives are planned for 2022. To ensure that peer reviews are impartial, the journal opted to maintain its current system of double-blind peer review (the identities of peer reviewers and authors are mutually blinded). Recruitment of international editors remains a high priority; the journal leveraged the Assistant Editor program as a vehicle for identifying and recruiting editorial talent. Special consideration or editorial assistance will be given to papers written by international authors for whom English is not their native language. Finally, the

journal will be initiating an effort to identify the demographics of all *JACEP Open* authors, peer reviewers, and editors.

10 | LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

JACEP Open has achieved many important milestones during its short 2-year history. The journal's next goal is to attain MedLine indexing within 1 to 2 years. The journal's other longer term goal will be to attain

assignment of an Impact Factor within 2 to 3 years. To achieve these goals, the journal will strive to codify operational procedures and publish articles of the highest quality and likelihood of citation.

How to cite this article: Wang HE. *JACEP Open* annual report 2021. *JACEP Open*. 2022;3:e12674.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/emp2.12674>