

BRIEF COMMENTARY

How Scientific Journals Work

Reflecting on the past, looking to the future: The new *JACEP Open*

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Forty years ago, the American Board of Medical Specialties named emergency medicine as its 23rd medical specialty, legitimizing the “emergency room” treatment provided by experts in emergency care.¹ An important element of fostering a new medical specialty is cultivating research to support its clinical strategies. In its early days, emergency medicine faced huge barriers in this realm as there were barely any scientific data to guide practice. History is filled with anecdotes of common but ineffective emergency medicine practices that were fueled by best experience, rational conjecture, extrapolation, or the weakest clinical data; for example, rotating tourniquets for acute heart failure, military anti-shock trousers for hemorrhagic shock, and the routine hyperventilation of traumatic brain injury.^{2–4}

Fortunately, the last 4 decades have witnessed the healthy growth of emergency care research. Today, emergency medicine investigators have played pivotal roles in the most important acute and critical care research networks such as the Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (ROC), the Neurologic Emergencies Treatment Trials network (NETT), the Pediatric Emergency Care Network (PECARN), the Prevention and Early Treatment of Acute Lung Injury (PETAL), and the new Strategies to Innovate Emergency Care Clinical Trials Network (SIREN).^{5–10} Findings from these and other efforts internationally have helped to shape our approach to our most prominent emergencies such as cardiac arrest, trauma, myocardial infarction, stroke, and sepsis.

It may take up to 20 years to translate research findings to clinical practice.¹¹ Thus, the value of new knowledge also depends upon its

efficient dissemination through the medical community. Medical journals play a key role here, providing an important vehicle for spreading new scientific knowledge. For over 4 decades, *Annals of Emergency Medicine*—once known as “*Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians*”—has filled this important role, serving as the only journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and providing a wide stage to showcase emergency medicine’s leading research (Figure 1).

We created this new journal—*Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians Open (JACEP Open)*—with eyes set on the future (Figure 2). The journal name “*JACEP Open*” clearly acknowledges our roots with ACEP, our sister flagship journal *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, and the history of emergency medicine. Our journal name also looks to the future of medical publishing, which will likely be dominated by authors’ and readers’ demands for speed, transparency, and accessibility. The Open Access model used by *JACEP Open* embraces these forward-thinking principles, creating a platform for rapid unimpeded global access to the most current published data. Over the last 6 months, we have worked tirelessly to plant the seeds for *JACEP Open*’s success, including defining the mission, scope, and design of the journal, recruiting an internationally renowned panel of editors and peer reviewers, and implementing efficient processes for rapidly evaluating and publishing manuscripts. We hope that you will support our goal of becoming a premier forum for showcasing the best-of-the-best in emergency medicine science by submitting, reading, citing, using and—most importantly—enjoying the journal.

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FIGURE 1 The inaugural issue of *Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians* (the original name of *Annals of Emergency Medicine*)

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FIGURE 2 The new JACEP Open

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