

Welcome to the New Blue Journal

Frederick Bonato



I hope you enjoy the first issue of *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance*. I have thought a long time about this editorial. The focus of course has to be on the transitions that led to our new title and how ‘the new blue journal’ will benefit us in the future. Put simply—the new title more truly represents who we are and what we do. Important to note though—it is not just a title change that has taken place. The journal has undergone a complete makeover.

Much thought and effort went into choosing the final design for the journal’s cover. It might seem like a simple thing: pick an image and go with it, but it was not that simple. The cover is the face of the journal and represents it, so it is only natural that many on the Editorial Board had some strong feelings about what should be portrayed there. *Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine’s* last cover contained small images that depicted various topics the journal addresses. That cover served us well since 2007, but with the current one we wanted to choose a single image that captured the essence of who we are.

There were many exchanges of possible cover designs shot across cyberspace between journal staff members and Board members. Pam Day worked diligently with a professional designer, Debra Naylor, to finally get it right and both of them should be commended for their hard work and patience. Agreeing on a general design of the cover was not too difficult. Tweaking that design so that all were comfortable with it took a bit more time—well maybe more than a bit—but I think the end result was well worth it.

More has changed than title and cover. The page layouts have all been revised and we at the journal office think the end result is a more aesthetically pleasing and readable journal. The reference style has been slightly changed to be more in compliance with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendations for the conduct, reporting, editing, and publication of scholarly work in medical journals. We will apply for official recognition by the ICMJE after this issue is published.

Why change the journal’s title again? This is now the fourth title and tenth cover since 1930. The change was prompted by two situations that evolved over time. The first is that the term ‘environmental’ has led in recent years to submissions that really don’t fit with what we do. While issues such as sustainability are important, it is an example of a topic that just doesn’t fit with our mission. Perhaps more importantly, *human performance* has become an increasingly relevant area for AsMA. By including human performance in our title it is the hope that we will attract more high quality submissions in that area that in the past may have been sent to other journals that are perhaps not as good a fit.

The changes to the Blue Journal are due to the efforts of many. Jim Webb and Sally Nunneley were key in collecting and organizing the data that was the basis for the rationale in making the change. Because of their efforts both the Editorial Board and the AsMA Council enthusiastically embraced the change. Debra Sventek and Rachel Trigg have been involved in the many changes that needed to take place for the launch to be successful. This not only included changes to the journal per se but also to the electronic submission system, Editorial Manager. Pam Day has worked from day one on making this transition a success. Pam warned all of us that a change like this would entail more work than most of us considered. She was right. Seeing opportunity, Pam has suggested many improvements along the way—all of them good ones.

I hope you enjoy *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance* throughout the year. Please consider submitting your work to us or serving as a reviewer for the journal. You can email us with any questions as always, but to a *new* email address: AMHPjournal@asma.org.

Best wishes for the New Year!

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