

New Year/New Challenges

Frederick Bonato, Ph.D., FAsMA



In my last editorial published in October, I wrote about the journal's plan to move to an open access (OA) option publishing model. I am pleased to report that, so far, our transition to this model has been smooth. By the time this issue of the journal is published, we will have already published our first OA articles which are available for free. They won't look any different from any of the other articles. However, if you go to the journal's Ingenta site (Ingentaconnect.com) where electronic versions of all our articles are available, you will see that some articles starting last month are now available for free for anyone who wants to download them. Non-OA articles are also available for free for those who are not AsMA members—that has not changed.

At the recent AsMA Council meeting in November, the question came up after Pam Day and I briefed the Council on our progress: is the review process for the OA submissions different that the process for non-OA submissions? It is a question aimed at quality and the integrity of the editorial process. It is an important question because some OA journals may not use a rigorous review system. The answer to the questions—for AMHP—is 'no'. In fact, reviewers will not know if the manuscript they are reviewing is an OA submission—or not. Journal staff will know (we have to), but that will not alter our processes. I believe we have in place a system that is efficient and maintains the integrity of the editorial process, and hence, the journal.

Another issue that was discussed at the meeting of the Editorial Board held last May in Las Vegas was the possibility of going from a monthly journal to a bi-monthly journal. As many of you know, many scientific journals are published bi-monthly or quarterly. The question was addressed again at the AsMA Council meeting that was held in November in Alexandria. At that meeting Pam Day and I presented a cost analysis to the Council that looked at our current monthly model and compared it to several bi-monthly models. An outcome of that discussion was a plan to conduct a survey of AMHP authors and

readers in order to assess their (your) opinions about making a change. There are pros and cons to almost everything. We hope that when you receive a message asking you to participate in the survey you will provide us with your valuable input. Your opinion is important. We will also take the opportunity to ask some other journal related questions that may help us in providing you with the best journal possible.

On a sad note, we learned earlier this year that our colleague and Editorial Board member, Dr. Mary Anne Frey, had passed away on September 13th. Mary Anne will be missed as a colleague and a friend. Among her many accomplishments she worked on the Neurolab Spacelab module mission. She was also a professor in the Aerospace Medicine Residency Program and a NASA scientist with the University Space Research Association. She was the recipient of the Aerospace Medical Association's Louis H. Bauer Founder's Award in 1993. She was also awarded the Hubertus Strughold Award from the Space Medicine Association in 1995 for her significant contributions to space medicine. Mary Anne will be missed by many in our community.

I close with a note of thanks and also one of encouragement. We are grateful for all the hard work our volunteer referees contribute over the year—your efforts are very much appreciated! We could not produce a high quality journal like AMHP without your valuable help. I also encourage you to please consider submitting your work to AMHP or serving as a reviewer for the journal—if have not done so before. Please enjoy the Blue Journal in the coming year. Please never hesitate to email us with any questions or comments you may have at: AMHPjournal@asma.org.

Very best wishes for 2020!

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