

J AAPOS has a new look

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This edition of the *Journal* marks a long-awaited and important turning point. With a reduction in our annual print page budget and a concurrent increase in the number of online pages available to us, the *Journal* assumes a new look. The changes are exciting, and we think they will enhance the reader's use of J AAPOS. Before describing these changes in detail, let me reminisce about the *Journal's* last several years.

Shortly after I assumed the role of Editor in Chief, Elsevier unveiled a new online manuscript trafficking system called EVISE with great promise and fanfare. We were part of a wave of journals that were moved to the new system. Glitches were obvious at the start, but when these failed to be rectified, the Managing Editor, Thomas Kozahek, and I campaigned for reform. Despite the best intentions of our publisher, Elsevier, we failed to gain ground. The system clearly did not suit our needs and required considerable time to navigate. Our Editorial Board was justifiably unhappy with the system. The AAPOS Board supported our request for change, and Elsevier responded by switching us to a mainstream and much more convenient system called Editorial Manager (EM). The transition to this system was smooth and left us in a good position to plan for the next phase of the *Journal's* development, with a leaner print publication and a more robust online presence.

Beginning in 2019, each issue of the journal will be about 60 pages, or about 20 pages less than in 2018. We achieve this reduction by replacing Major Articles—longer, data-driven studies—with article précis, each about 2 pages in length and sometimes including tables or figures: the full text of each article is available online at jaapos.org and elsewhere. In the past we have often had to publish some tables and figures from articles on e-pages to economize on space. Thus, these important pieces would often appear as a sort of appendix in the article of record. Now articles will be easily found in one place, with all tables and figures in situ. Moreover, in the set of print abridgements, the reader now has a concise and convenient overview of the range of material covered in each issue.

The “new” journal will continue to print editorials, review papers, workshops, and case reports in full. We recognize that our constituents—you the readers—are clinicians and prefer a case-oriented approach. A typical issue will have the following appearance. Commentaries and certain invited submissions will appear in print. Abridged versions of Major Articles follow, with Short Reports coming thereafter. To emphasize, the précis is not simply an abstract. It is a concentrated version of the paper. We think that the précis can offer the reader a very meaningful condensation of the full-length paper. If the reader is interested in the full-length paper, then she will have easy access to it.

What does this mean for authors and editors? The addition of a précis means a little more work for authors, and a bit more work for our Associate Editors. We think the effort is outweighed by opportunity. Before a text is finalized, authors are obliged to cast a final critical glance over their study and distill its essential message for their colleagues. Readers can be confident that what they read in print is an authorized statement of that message. Finally, we have more editorial pages overall beginning in 2019. As a result, we can do less pruning of tables and graphs than we have had to do, and authors of Major Articles will still have something tangible in print.

Naturally, we hope scientists will be inclined to send their materials to us. We are continually working toward speeding up our time to a first decision, and with our new way for sorting and publishing material, we hope to make J AAPOS a more effective tool for sharing opinion, research, and cases. This is your *Journal*, and we remain proud of the materials directed to us that we are able to publish.

We are grateful to our Editorial Board for contributing their expertise and time to our effort and to Elsevier for its support and for providing the infrastructure that allows our Editorial Board to move manuscripts forward as quickly as possible. Many people behind the scenes play a pivotal role in our ever-evolving *Journal*, and we are indebted to them. Most of all, we are grateful to you, our readers, whose input, editorial work, and manuscript submissions keep the *Journal* the vibrant publication we strive to maintain.

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