Next Steps for the Premier Clinical Journal in the Sleep Field

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As editor-in-chief of the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine (JCSM), which is the official publication of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), it has been my privilege to spend the past few months working with the AASM Board of Directors to develop a strategic plan for the next three years of the journal. By selling its portion of the journal SLEEP to the Sleep Research Society last year, the AASM has gained the ability to redouble its efforts to fortify and expand JCSM as the premier clinical journal in the sleep field. I am excited to share with you some of the changes and improvements that we will be making.

First and foremost, we want to provide a better user experience to our readers. We will be making significant updates to the JCSM website to improve your ability to engage with it, find relevant articles, and easily read the journal from any type of device. We also will continue to look for other avenues to highlight journal research for you. For example, you can follow @JCSMJournal on Twitter for updates and links to new coverage of research published in JCSM.

As Dr. Watson noted in his editorial published in JCSM in January,¹ the AASM has implemented several initiatives to support young physicians who are interested in pursuing a career in sleep medicine. To assist with these efforts, JCSM will be introducing a new section specifically for medical students, residents, and fellows. This will ensure that future board-certified sleep medicine physicians have a place to publish their work and an opportunity to be involved with the AASM at the early stages of their careers. I am looking forward to reading about the work of the next generation of sleep specialists.

Our journal also has the ability to provide evidence-based insight to colleagues who may not specialize in sleep medicine but consistently see patients who have sleep disorders. In February the AASM published a new clinical practice guideline for the pharmacologic treatment of chronic insomnia in adults,² and the March issue included the new clinical practice guideline for diagnostic testing for adult obstructive sleep apnea.³ Because our peers need to be aware of these important publications, we will be disseminating them more widely by making one to two articles per month “open access” and immediately available. These papers will be chosen specifically based on their broad appeal to health care providers outside of the sleep medicine specialty. In 2018 we also will be introducing a new subscription model for physicians who may have an ancillary interest in sleep medicine.

Lastly, we know that our readers are busy sleep medicine professionals whose time is valuable. JCSM must continue to provide you with high-impact, clinically relevant, timely articles that deserve your attention. Based on feedback from you, we have begun adding select papers in our new sections: Emerging Technologies, Global Practice of Sleep Medicine, and Durable Medical Equipment. Also, to help clinicians take new research from “bench-to-bedside,” we are going to include patient perspectives with certain papers. This will give us a valuable view of how patients perceive new treatments and technology.

I have the privilege of leading an amazing group of volunteer editors and reviewers, and I will be working with them to ensure that manuscripts submitted to JCSM are reviewed and published as quickly as possible. We also will strive to ensure that the manuscripts we accept fit the needs and expectations of our readers. I am hopeful that by improving our user experience, increasing the dissemination of JCSM, and decreasing the time from submission to publication, we will provide incentive for the top experts in the field to submit their latest works to our journal.

I am pleased that there was a 37-percent increase in the journal’s online users in 2016 compared with 2015, as well as an increase of nearly 12 percent in the number of page views. My goal is to see this growth continue as we take the next steps to enhance the premier clinical journal in sleep medicine, and I would appreciate the support and engagement of AASM members in this process. If you have general comments about JCSM or suggestions for its improvement, please email me at jcsmeditor@aasmnet.org. Together we will take JCSM to new heights.

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REFERENCES


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