Writing and Reviewing papers for *Medical Physics* and *JACMP*
Professional Symposium WE-J-209
Publishing in the *JACMP*; Present and Future Vision
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**Vision Statement**

- The *Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics* (*JACMP*) publishes papers that will help clinical medical physicists and other health professionals perform their responsibilities more effectively and efficiently for the increased benefit of the patient. The journal was established as an Open Access journal in 2000, one of the first, and is currently published bi-monthly.

- Clinical medical physicists take their lunchboxes to work!

**Types of Articles – With a Global Clinical Focus**

- AAPM Reports & Documents
- Clinical Review Articles
- Radiation Oncology Physics
- Medical Imaging
- Radiation Measurements
- Radiation Protection & Regulations
- Non-Ionizing Topics
- Management and Profession
- Education and Teaching
- Technical Notes
- Parallel Opposed Editorials
Some Recent History
• On November 1, 2015, the JACMP implemented a $500 Article Publishing Charge (APC) for submitted articles.
• Submissions in 2016 dropped about 15% from 2015.
• JACMP and Medical Physics began publishing with Wiley, January 1, 2017.
• JACMP transitioned to the electronic Journal Press (eJP) review platform; this is the same one as used by Medical Physics – the review process and taxonomy is mostly the same except JACMP uses a double blind review.
• Submissions grew by 28% in 2017 over 2016.
• Growth is holding about 10% in 2018 over 2017.
• We have added about 20 new Associate Editors in 2017 and 2018, mostly from the Pacific Rim and Europe.

What Makes the JACMP Unique?
• The copyright for articles published in the JACMP remains with the author under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 3.0) license. Under this license, you are free to:
  • Share – copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
  • Adapt – remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially.
• By retaining your rights, you will be permitted to:
  • Maintain the right to disseminate your work
  • Maintain the right to use your work for educational purposes including your classes
  • Maintain the right to post your work on any website you choose
  • Maintain the right to post and archive your work in your employer’s Repository
  • Reserve the right to post the pre-refereed or even post-refereed version of your paper
  • Allow for the largest possible audience

How does the JACMP compliment Medical Physics?
• Medical Physics is not pressured by clinical physicists to publish lower impact clinical articles.
• In declining a clinical article, Medical Physics has the option to recommend submission to the JACMP.
• JACMP articles quote the science that underlies their clinical articles. Typically a JACMP article will quote 5 or more Medical Physics articles. These citations serve to increase the impact factor of Medical Physics.
**JACMP Core Values**

- The interests of the practicing clinical community of medical physics scholars is best served:
  - When scholars own the copyright
  - When scholars own their data
  - When scholars own their intellectual property
  - When scholars are free to use their articles for educational purposes
  - When scholars are free to disseminate their work as widely as they wish

**Review Outcomes and Issues**

- Journal statistics
  - 2017 Acceptance rate: 47%
  - Days to First Review Decision – 47 (2017)
  - Days from Acceptance to Early View Publication – 60 (2017)
  - Days from Acceptance to Online Issue Publication – 87 (2017)

- Culture
  - If an article can benefit a patient or help a medical physicist work more efficiently, we want to help you improve your article so it may be published
  - Reviewers are detailed and thorough, but not harsh or overly critical

- Impact Factor – 1.301 – represents a balance between the outreach and growth missions for the JACMP and our quality standards

**Articles we may decline and refer elsewhere**

- Primarily scientific rather than clinical in focus
- Focus on clinical issues but contain little physics content
- Engineering topics that focus on specific equipment issues
- Explore clinical problems already well covered in the literature
- Poor use of language or grammar
- Poorly written articles
- Plagiarized articles
Let’s start at the beginning and cover some review process items unique to the JACMP

- The Editor or one of the Deputy Editors screen and briefly review your initial submission.
- Determine an associate editor to assign based on editor’s preferred topics (e.g. Brachytherapy, Radiosurgery, Planning, etc.).
- The associate editor then begins the initial review process. This may include a quick read of the manuscript. Then reviewers are assigned.
- The review is double blind... Unless you reveal your institution or other clearly identifying features in your manuscript.

How do associate editors assign reviewers?

- Associate editors have several tricks to find reviewers:
  - Personally knowing someone with expertise in that subject area
  - Registered reviewers have self-identified categories that can be searched
  - You are cited in the manuscript! Therefore you must know something about it.
  - You have published in a similar topic but not cited by the authors.
  - The JACMP lost its reviewer database when it transitioned to Wiley and we are rebuilding it. It should have substantially recovered by the end of 2019.
The review process:

• The reviewer reads the title and abstract page to confirm there is no conflict of interest.
• The reviewer scans the article to make sure it is complete, readable, ready for review, and the format is correct.
• Reviewer prints it and all the figures/tables in color.
• Reviewer carries it around in a bag until we send those nagging reminder emails that remind the review is due! I am sure this happens only with JACMP articles.

Citations/References

• You should cite modern and relevant authors in the field.
• You don’t have to cite them ALL, but you should pick a few in a nice sample of authors/clinics.
• You should know the most cited references concerning your topic and include them.
• You may cite yourself, but don’t make it a copy of your CV.
• Be discrete with citations as the article is being reviewed by those you do not want to have your identity. Sometimes this may not be possible.
• Cite relevant resources both from JACMP and other journals.

What happens at the end of this process?

• I personally give a final read to each article before final acceptance and once again when the article is typeset to assure quality.
• If your article is declined for any reason, you have the option to appeal. If you appeal, I may make the final decision myself.
• However, if there is any doubt, I refer the article to a senior associate editor with special expertise in the field, or to one of the Deputy Editors-in-Chief.
• In some cases, I will assign the article to another associate editor for another round of review.
• If the article is declined, there is a 6 month waiting period before we allow it again as a new submission.
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