

American Association of Physicists in Medicine
Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics



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

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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