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WestJEM spins off Case Report and Image journal as "CPC-EM"

We are pleased to announce that the Editorial Board of the *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine* has decided to begin a new journal affiliated with *West*JEM but focused on case reports and images. The new open access journal will be titled: "*CPC-EM*" which stands for *Clinical Practice and Cases in Emergency Medicine*.

Dr. Rick McPheeters, Chief of Emergency Medicine at Kern Medical, and Vice Chair of Emergency Medicine at UCLA, will serve as Editor in Chief of the new journal, while Dr. Shadi Lahham, Associate Program Director from UC Irvine will serve as Associate Editor.

*West*JEM is spinning off the case reports and images from the core journal for three important reasons.

First, we want to continue to encourage submissions from junior authors, both faculty and residents. Most residents or medical students contemplating an academic career write a case report as their first scholarly project. We want to continue to provide an outlet for these reports, as this is one of the core missions of the journal, to mentor scholarship from new and developing EM programs and faculty. There are precious few outlets for case reports and images in our specialty and many journals charge substantial fees for publication. *West*JEM has seen the number of case reports and image submissions increase dramatically over the past few years, and given constraints of space we have, sadly, had to decline more than 80% of these recently. There is clearly a demand out there.

Second, as *West*JEM pursues an official "impact factor," publication of case reports and images work against us. A journal's impact factor is a ratio of the number of citations of papers in a journal divided by the total number of papers published. Case reports and images are rarely if ever cited, and yet contribute to the denominator of the impact factor calculation. The more case reports and images, the lower the impact factor. So it makes sense to spin off these rarely-if-ever cited communications so as not to dilute the core journal's impact factor. Although *West*JEM does not yet have an official impact factor from the international core index from Thomson Reuters, our self-calculated impact factor is 1.208 (1.208 citations in *West*JEM and other journals in 2014 and 2015 per article published in *West*JEM in 2013).

And lastly, case reports, for which there is clearly a large demand, can support the core journal and its activities to provide the best scholarship to the world. As an open-access journal, *West*JEM relies on society sponsors (ACOEP, California ACEP, Cal-AAEM and UC Irvine Department of EM) and 73 department sponsors, along with modest article processing fees (APF) of $400 per paper. Recognizing that case reports are important, and also use journal staff time, we have decided to maintain the APF of $400 per case report or image, and offer a 15% discount to department sponsors. In a perfect world, we would waive the APF for case reports and images as in the past for department sponsors. In the fiscal reality of 2016, we need to use case reports to support finances for the core journal.

The new journal, *CPC-EM*, will be included in PubMed Central, and also in PubMed abstract search services, just as is the core *West*JEM. We are excited about *CPC-EM* and believe it will both continue to contribute to junior scholarship, as well as provide resources to grow *West*JEM to a bigger and better journal.

Best regards,
Mark

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