



Thank You...and Some Journal Changes

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As I write this the day before the traditional U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving, I reflect on my last nine years as *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance* (AMHP) editor-in-chief. I think of—and am grateful for—many things. So many of them are overwhelmingly positive. I believe that the journal team has consistently done strong and solid work to maintain and promote a high-quality journal that is the most widely known in the field. This team includes the journal office (Pam Day, Managing Editor, Rachel Trigg, Assistant to the Managing Editor, and Debra Sventek, Assistant to the Editor). I am grateful for the support of these valued colleagues over the years.

Advice from AMHP's associate editors is vital to the success of the journal. AMHP's associate editors are Dr. Jan Stepanek for clinical aerospace medicine, Michael Barratt for space medicine, and Richard Allnutt for resident case reports. The topics covered in AMHP are diverse. Editing all the manuscripts submitted to AMHP without their help would not be possible. The journal is also fortunate to have a talented and dedicated editorial board—you can see their names printed in the masthead of every issue of the journal. Our board is comprised of individuals from various parts of the world and represent numerous areas of study and practice that cover the wide range of topics we cover in the journal.

The editorial board meets each year at the annual AsMA Scientific Meeting and throughout the year we discuss issues as they arise. Several topics have come up over the last year that have prompted some changes in how the journal operates. One of these changes is that a Conflict of Interest (COI) form is now required for all submissions to the journal. This practice aligns with the practice of many other publications. It is especially important for a journal like ours that often presents readers with descriptions of new devices and techniques. Disclosing a potential COI does not automatically prevent a manuscript from being published. However, it is useful for the editorial team to be able to assess information up front about a potential conflict. So far, the use of the COI form has not been an issue.

Another change that will occur (probably by the time you read this) is that AMHP will start to use a form of double-blind peer review as opposed to the single-blind review process it has been using for many years. Currently, AMHP reviewers know the identities of authors but authors do not know the identities of reviewers. Once we go to a double-blind review process, reviewers will not know who the authors are for the initial

submission of a manuscript. In the system we are adopting, after the first round of review the reviewers will know who the authors are. Our move to this system will allow reviewers to focus solely on the work presented in the manuscript.

The last change is in a way the biggest for us. We have been considering for a few years now whether or not AMHP should offer an Open Access option for authors. In considering this move, Pam Day actually surveyed authors and reviewers to solicit their opinions regarding Open Access publishing. Some federal funding agencies require that work published with that agency's support must be made freely available. In the past we have handled this by indicating to authors that AMHP owns the copyright to how their article appears in the journal, but not the words themselves—and hence not the work. Providing a free copy of the final accepted version of the manuscript has been, and still is, allowed.

However, there is still some desire on the part of some to have a version of the final published article available. Therefore, we are now going to make that option available. Authors who wish to have their accepted manuscripts published as Open Access articles can do so for a fee (\$1,500). There is no obligation for authors to choose this option. Authors can still choose to publish with AMHP at no charge with the understanding that the published version of the paper cannot be posted on websites or in repositories—only the final accept version of the manuscript can be shared in those ways.

The Open Access discussion will continue to evolve. The debate over government and agency mandates regarding Open Access is a hot topic of discussion in the journal publishing world. Such mandates would eliminate choice for many authors. We feel that offering a hybrid model is a fair and reasonable option at this time. I wish to thank Pam Day for really doing a deep dive into this topic and making the hybrid model we are about to launch a reality.

As always—I encourage you to consider submitting your work to the Blue Journal or serving as a reviewer. I hope you enjoy AMHP in the year to come!

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3357/AMHP901Editorial.2019>