

The Duties and Ethics of the Journal

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Published online: 9 January 2010
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2010—For now nothing but good news. Despite major economic struggles worldwide, the journal, *Neurocritical Care*, is doing well. Last year we saw over 30% increase in submissions, increase in published pages, increase in the impact factor (1.7), and increase in revenues from advertising, print subscriptions, and other sources. It seems we are crossing the rubicon.

Why are things going our way? For one thing, the journal handles manuscripts in a rapid pace. We believe it is our duty to publish timely, interesting, and predominantly practical articles within a short time span. Our reviewers understand that and most of our papers are reviewed within 3 weeks of submission. Only 10% of our reviewers are procrastinators and few answer a request to review with, “I have no time,” “working on a grant application,” or worse, “sorry, I am on service” (well, yes). Some reviewers are incurable, never deliver and their fate is easy to predict.

How long should reviewers have before turning in their reviews in this day of age? A shorter time for review may increase the rejection rate. More time for review has no impact on quality and we have seen that most reviewers either turn in their reviews within days or close to the deadline. We send reminders but few tardy reviewers are jump started by it and the response rate remains low. Some say they will review but do not seem to follow their commitment.

As befits a scholar, reviewing for the journal is an important duty, demonstrates academic interest and productivity, and improves work of colleagues. It truly is a professional consultation and guides the editor in decision

making. I am very pleased with my reviewer’s pool and they deserve substantial credit for the success of this journal. I invite readers and authors to volunteer. When our submissions increase we need more qualified reviewers of all stripes.

The editor-in-chief has duties too and commonly involves ethical considerations. The journal has had their share of duplicate and redundant article submission that—we believe—were identified before publication. Any young journal is at risk for such misconduct and, if identified, will lead to a reprimand.

Equally serious is ghost authorship. Collaborative relationship with the industry can greatly benefit budding neurointensivists and result in innovation. However, concealing a conflict of interest by the industry by hiring of a ghostwriter cannot be tolerated. We are not interested in publishing industry generated reviews that may lead to mass distribution of reprints. It would increase our revenues but negatively impact on our growing credibility. We are not in it for the money.

There are many kinds of conflicts of interest. To name a few, these are financial ties, academic commitments, personal relationships, political or religious beliefs, institutional affiliations. Every author should be aware of these conflicts, declare them or refrain from authorship. For more recent information on conflict of interest, I refer to the World Association of Medical Editors website (www.wame.org) recent statement.

Another duty of the editor-in-chief is to keep the journal interesting. My motto has been to publish what interests you and what makes you rethink your practice. We are also interested in how patients are cared for. We are continuing our series with “tell me something I need to know” written by editorial board members and highlighting one aspect of their practice. In 2010 we are starting a NICU fellow

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section called “A day in the life of a jobbing NICU fellow.” This paper is very much 1 day of work in the NICU and highlights decisions, phone calls, family conferences, and more. It is how a busy and memorable day looks like and may even be one patient that kept you up all night.

At the beginning of the year this is also the time to again thank the editorial board for their continuous support. We

are welcoming Neeraj Badjatia who is replacing Stephan Mayer who now is president of the Neurocritical Care Society. I am grateful for the dedicated ad hoc reviewers—asterisk for more than 5 manuscript reviews this year—and they are listed here. It is hoped this year and the next will bring new ideas, new technology, and new approaches in management in the form of interesting practical papers.

Abate, M. Giulia	Flaherty, Matthew	Lazaridis, Christos
Adeoye, Opeolu	Flint, Alexander	Lee, Jong Woo
Aisiku, Imoigele P.	Fragata, Isabel	Legriel, Stephane
Aiyagari, Venkatesh	Frontera, Jennifer*	Lescot, Thomas
Akins, Paul Taylor*	Fugate, Jennifer E.	Liebeskind, David
Andrade, Fabio Moreira	Furtado, Sunil V.	Ling, Geoffrey
Badjatia, Neeraj	Gaul, Charly	Liu-DeRyke, Xi
Bardutzky, Juergen	Gdynia, Hans-Jürgen	Llompert-Pou, Juan Antonio
Barkan, Helen	Gorson, Kenneth	Lopez, George
Bartynski, Walter	Greer, David Matthew	Macdonald, R. Loch
Baskaya, Mustafa K.	Halperin, John	Malek, Adel M.
Baumann, Antoine	Hashimoto, Tomoki	Manno, Edward
Beer, Ronny	Henkes, Hans	Maramattom, Bobby Varkey
Bell, Randy	Herman, Peter	Marino, Silvia
Bell, Michael J.	Hirsch, Lawrence	Marklund, Niklas
Berlot, Giorgio	Hoekema, Dale	McKinney, Alexander Marcellus
Bernstein, Richard	Hoesch, Robert E.	Mertes, Paul Michel
Bledsoe, Kathleen A.	Huff, J. Stephen	Meyer, Phillippe Gabriel
Bloomfield, Eric	Hui, Ferdinand	Muehlschlegel, Susanne
Bojanowski, Michel W.	Huttner, H. B.	Murphy, Theresa
Borel, Cecil	Ionita, Catalina Codruta	Mutoh, Tatsushi
Brambrink, Ansgar	James, Michael Lucas*	Nagayama, Masao*
Burns, Lorrie L.	Janjua, Tariq*	Naidech, Andrew M.*
Carandang, Raphael	Jarquín-Valdivia, Adrian A.	Nakagawa, Kazuma
Carpenter, Jessica Lynn	Jorens, Philippe G.	Nanchal, Rahul
Carrera, Emmanuel	Josephson, S. Andrew	Naravetla, Bharath R.
Castellani, Gianluca	Kapapa, Thomas	Nathan, Barnett
Chen, Wei His	Kastrup, Oliver	Naval, Neeraj Sunderrajan
Childs, Charmaine	Katsaridis, Vasilios	Neyens, Ron
Cloft, Harry	Kent, Samuel John	Nguyen, Thanh
Coles, Jonathan Peter	Keyrouz, Salah G.	Nogueira, Raul Gomes
Corry, Jesse James	Khatri, Pooja	Nuwer, Marc R.
Czosnyka, Marek	Kim, May Anne	Nyquist, Paul Alan
Danielisova, Viera	Klein, Matthias*	Oddo, Mauro
De Oliveira, Jean	Koenig, Matthew*	Orakcioglu, Berk
Gonçalves	Koffke, Andrew	Paterakis, Konstantinos N.
Degos, Vincent	Kollmar, Rainer	Petzold, Axel*
Demaerschalk, Bart	Kompanje, Erwin	Pfister, Hans-Walter
Dhar, Rajat*	Kramer, Andreas	Piastra, Marco
Diaz, Victor Adolfo	Kruyt, Nyika	Provencio, J. Javier
Dohmen, Christian	Kuluz, John	Puccio, Ava M.
Dreier, Jens P.	Lackner, Peter*	Puppo, Corina
Durga, Padmaja	Lansberg, Maarten G.	Pyne-Geithman, Gail Jean
Erdem, Tulin	Larsen, Fin Stolze	Rabinstein, Alejandro
Farooq, Muhammad*	Laskowitz, Daniel	Rincon, Fred

Romero, Carlos Miguel	Shutter, Lori	van de Beek, Diederik
Rosand, Jonathan	Sims, John Randall	van den Bergh, Walter M.
Rosenfeld, Jeffrey Victor	Singh, Vineeta	Varelas, Panayiotis*
Rossetti, Andrea O.	Smith, Martin	Veltkamp, Roland
Rughani, Anand	Souter, Michael	Vidotto, Milena Carlos
Samain, Emmanuel	St. Louis, Erik	Webb, Adam
Samuels, Owen	Stead, Latha G.	Weiss, Nicolas
Sarwal, Aarti	Stollberger, Claudia	Weston-Schumacher, H. Christian
Schirmer, Clemens M.*	Suarez, Jose I.	Yahia, Abutaher M.
Schleicher, Donald Thomas	Taccone, Fabio Silvio	Yenari, Midori Anne
Schulz-Stübner, Sebastian	Tawil, Isaac	Zazulia, Allyson R.
Schwab, Stefan	Terry, John	Ziai, Wendy
Schwarz, Stefan*	Thomas, Sanjeev V.	Zubkov, Alexander Y.
Scott, L. Keith	Timmons, Shelly	Zygun, David
Shah, Qaisar A.	Tisherman, Samuel	
Shahlaie, Kiarash	Torbey, Michel	