



Social responsibilities of a pediatric journal: considerations and future directions

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Dr. Lundberg, the former editor of *JAMA*, elucidated many social responsibilities for medical journal editing as early as 1987 [1]. During the pandemic, a medical journal should highlight its social responsibilities in publishing high-quality contents, promoting education to the health care providers and providing readers with the timely and accurate information [1]. At the time of this editorial published, the global cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) had surpassed 85 million. The pandemic and its resulting economic, health, and educational disruptions have affected all aspects of the youth's lives [2]. Quarantine and social isolation, increased risks of child abuse and neglect, financially and psychologically stressed family members have led to negative mental outcomes in children and adolescents. Dr. Christakis is aware that the adverse effects of COVID-19 on children are longitudinal and will not be recognized fully until 15 to 20 years later [3]; notably, the youth population from the less developed countries and vulnerable pediatric populations are more vulnerable to be affected by the pandemic. As editors of *World Journal of Pediatrics (WJP)*, we think the main social responsibilities in response to the pandemic are to publish scientific, accurate and accessible information about pediatrics and COVID-19.

As of 31 December 2020, the journal has published 27 COVID-19-related articles covering various aspects of COVID-19 in children and adolescents. We published the

first guidance for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 in children in the early February of 2020 [4–6]. We also published a special issue on “COVID-19 and children”, which provides a comprehensive overview of the strategies and management for children with COVID-19 [7]. These articles are closely relevant to clinical practice, which have provided first-hand diagnosis and treatment guidance to pediatricians and researchers. All the COVID-19-related articles are freely available to the world.

WJP is committed to high-standard publication ethics, guaranteeing timely, scientific and fair peer-reviewing process, as well as high-efficient production flow. The journal adheres to high-quality-oriented publication while keeping rapid publication during the pandemic. We have adopted the same high standards for COVID-19-related articles. Fast publication relies on efficient communications among editors, authors, reviewers as well as publishers.

For promoting education in healthcare workers and the general public, the journal has been working hard on increasing its visibility. We optimized the journal's publication model to make more high-quality articles to be freely available to the public. In 2017, *WJP* transitioned from a subscription journal to a hybrid open access journal. Now the journal is preparing for sustainable transition to fully open access. In addition to accessibility of contents, we also have been focusing on increasing accessibility of language. We have translated academic articles into popular science reports in Chinese, thereby increasing the visibility of these articles among the general public in China. In 2020, *WJP* launched its own account on Twitter with the name of “World Journal of Pediatrics” and account of “@World_J_Pediatr”. We will continue to promote the journal articles worldwide and make more high-quality articles available via social media. In response to Bandara's request [8], *WJP* will create more high-quality, easy to understand resources at the adolescents' literacy level through social media.

Since 2005, the journal has been devoting to reporting scientific achievements and popularization of pediatric

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knowledge. We have been endeavoring to develop *WJP* as a forum for academic communication and medical education in the past 16 years. *WJP* will all along contribute to the better health of the youth. The followings are the journal's several future directions in response to the pandemic: (1) highlighting the potential longitudinal impact of COVID-19 on psychosocial health of the youth population and their families; (2) bringing attention of the health and care needs of vulnerable pediatric population; (3) Raising concerns about healthcare issues of the pediatric population in less developed countries.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Ethical approval Not needed.

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