Two Years of Triumph: Bringing Rural Healthcare to a Global Audience

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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The Marshall Journal of Medicine (MJM) celebrates its second anniversary. The primary goal of the journal is to build a more vibrant intellectual community in rural Appalachia and beyond, sharing experiences in all aspects of comprehensive health care. As we come to the end of our second year of publishing, we believe we have been able to meet this primary goal. Issued quarterly, MJM has published a total of 94 peer-reviewed articles in diverse submission categories with high-quality content received from local, regional, national, and international contributors. In two years of publication, a total of 18,593 full-text electronic downloads in 145 countries have given significant attention to MJM. The journal has seen a continual increase in the number of manuscripts submitted while maintaining a review turn around rate of 35 days on average. We continue to be selective, publishing 62% of our submissions.

Open access publication is transforming the landscape of academic journals by offering free and easy access of scientific knowledge, information, and data which contributes to improved research, education, public enrichment, and economic growth. The concept of altmetrics (article-level metrics) examining online scholarly impact such as the number of downloads and the number of social media bookmarks is changing the way we measure the total impact of the scholarly publication. Compared with traditional, citation-based metrics, which take time to accrue, altmetrics may provide timely feedback on the distribution of an article and the discourse that surrounds it. Such concepts are increasing expectations and adding new demands from authors.

My primary goal as Editor-in-Chief is to ensure that the Marshall Journal of Medicine remains at the forefront of the rapidly shifting scientific communication landscape, while also paying close attention to publishing the final scientific product by maintaining high standards of the peer review process. By steadily introducing initiatives to the editorial and review processes, I believe the Marshall Journal of Medicine will further develop as a flagship for communicating scholarly excellence in the practice of Appalachian rural health medicine.

The success of any academic journal is built primarily on three key groups of people: contributors, reviewers, and readers. On behalf of the MJM Editorial Board, I would like to thank each group and express my gratitude for the support they have given to MJM and express sincere appreciation to my colleagues at the Marshall University Library. I look forward to continuing this relationship and receiving your suggestions and ideas for making MJM more valuable to our Appalachian rural community and beyond.

References