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Editorial

Publishing Pandemic-Related Content and Embarking on New Initiatives

Mayo Clinic Proceedings begins this new year with a note of gratitude and appreciation to all its readership, authors, reviewers, and other contributors and its publisher Elsevier for their outstanding support that vitally underpins the success of the journal. Such support is especially appreciated as a number of initiatives at Mayo Clinic Proceedings were begun in 2021 that we believe will sustain and promote the mission and success of the journal—now within 5 years of a centenary of continuous publication—long into the future. This support was and is critical for the journal’s success as the COVID-19 pandemic still continues with its challenges and constraints to our professional and personal lives.

Our Impact Factor reported in the summer of 2021 achieved its all-time high at 7.616, placing it in the top 11% of journals in the increasingly crowded field of general/internal medicine. Our number of submissions projected for this year (1818), like the number of submissions in 2020 (2437), remains markedly higher than in the year before the pandemic (1503). This yearly increase of the past 2 years was driven by submissions not only on COVID-19—related content but also on topics other than those centered on COVID-19. In addition, full text usage, based on data from 3 platforms (Science Direct, Journal Branded Solutions, Clinical Key), has steadily risen during the past 5 years and now consistently exceeds 5 million per year.

Before this writing (late November 2021) 1 year ago, with the pandemic raging, there was still uncertainty whether and when effective and safe vaccines would be available. Three such vaccines are now Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—approved in the United States, and the administration of booster doses and vaccination in children are also approved and recommended by the CDC. Understanding of COVID-19 and the transmission of its causative virus SARS-CoV-2 has appreciably increased in 2021. Mayo Clinic Proceedings has endeavored to meaningfully contribute to the COVID-19 literature by publishing articles on such diverse aspects of COVID-19 as the effect of masking and distance on aerosol exposure potential; the influence of risk factors and viral load on organ complications and the severity of COVID-19; the spectrum of disease in COVID-19 and management of its 3 levels of illness (mild, moderate, severe); sex differences and COVID-19 outcomes; transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in health care workers; pathobiology of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants and their infectivity; leveraging the electronic health record to address the pandemic; resource allocation; medical education and conducting clinical research during the pandemic; utility and growth of telemedicine during the pandemic; COVID-19 outcomes at major health care systems; socioeconomic disparities and the spread of COVID-19; insights regarding COVID-19 gained by precision medicine; SARS-CoV-2 testing and airline travel; psychological stress and burnout during COVID-19; post—COVID-19 syndrome; vaccine hesitancy and strategies to address it; administering anti-spike monoclonal antibodies to patients with mild to moderate COVID-19; efficacy and safety of convalescent plasma; and efficacy of and immune responses to vaccination.

During 2021, Mayo Clinic Proceedings successfully made the transition to becoming an online only publication for reasons that were previously enumerated and has embarked on the following exciting initiatives. The first is strengthening the internationalization and global reach of Mayo Clinic
Proceedings. To this end, 5 new Associate Editors, each from a major geographic region worldwide, will be appointed to serve as editors and representatives of Mayo Clinic Proceedings for that particular region. These Associate Editors will serve as sensors for and recruiters of timely and important regional content—original research, review articles, perspectives and controversies, other upfront material—relevant to the mission and purview of the journal. In addition, these Associate Editors will aid in the recruitment of distinguished clinicians and academicians from their regions to the editorial board. We are delighted that Professors Vivekanand Jha and Matthew Griffin have graciously agreed to serve in these roles. Professor Jha is Executive Director, George Institute for Global Health, India; Professor and Chair of Global Kidney Health, Imperial College of Science, Technology, and Medicine, London, United Kingdom; and Conjoint Professor of Medicine, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Professor Jha completed in 2021 his 2-year term as President of the International Society of Nephrology. Professor Griffin is a consultant nephrologist and is Professor of Transplant Biology and Head of the Discipline of Medicine in the School of Medicine at the National University of Ireland Galway in the West of Ireland. Professor Griffin has strong ties with Mayo Clinic, having previously trained and served there as a Mayo Foundation Scholar, an Associate Professor of Medicine, a Staff Consultant in Nephrology and Transplantation, and Associate Director of Mayo Clinic William J. von Liebig Transplant Center. The second initiative at Mayo Clinic Proceedings that began in 2021 was the conceptualization of another expansion journal in addition to Mayo Clinic Proceedings: Innovation, Quality & Outcomes, with the intent of launching this new member of this family of journals in 2022. We will keep our readership apprised of ongoing developments in both initiatives.

As does everyone, we hope that the current surge in the COVID-19 pandemic abates and that the glimmerings of recovery seen a few months ago return and grow. We wish everyone health and safety in these challenging and uncertain times, and as always, we are privileged and thankful for this partnership with you, our readers, authors, reviewers, and other contributors and our publisher, in serving the vision and mission of Mayo Clinic Proceedings.

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REFERENCE