To JAMA Peer Reviewers, Authors, and Readers—Thank You

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In this issue of JAMA, we are pleased to publish the names of the 3311 peer reviewers who completed reviews of JAMA manuscripts in 2015.1 Peer review remains an essential aspect of scientific publication in helping ensure that the manuscripts published in JAMA represent important and valid studies. The comments, suggestions, and insights from the peer reviewers are carefully considered in editorial decision making and are instrumental in improving the quality of published reports. We extend our sincere thanks to all peer reviewers who provided thoughtful and scholarly evaluations of manuscripts. The integrity and quality of JAMA are a reflection of our peer review process.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to all authors who submitted manuscripts for consideration for publication in JAMA. In 2015, a total of 6993 manuscripts were submitted to JAMA, including 4713 research manuscripts (Table). We are honored that authors have the trust and confidence in JAMA to submit their most important manuscripts, including original research investigations, rigorous reviews, scholarly Viewpoints, insightful Editorials, and other reports for consideration for publication. The importance, high caliber, and influence of these articles are reflected in JAMA’s impact factor of 35.

In 2015, an increasing number of authors have taken advantage of the opportunity to indicate (at the time of submitting a paper to JAMA) that if their manuscript is not accepted by JAMA, it could immediately be considered for publication by one of the JAMA Network specialty journals. In 2015, authors of 1617 manuscripts elected to have their manuscripts transferred to a JAMA Network specialty journal for further consideration for publication.

As additional services to authors, JAMA has continued to expand distribution channels for JAMA articles, thereby enhancing the dissemination of authors’ work (Table). In 2015, a substantial proportion of articles were released Online First, weeks ahead of print publication, to enable authors to communicate their findings more rapidly. In addition to the 325,000 weekly recipients of the print journal, the JAMA Network Reader provides free access via smartphone, tablet, or desktop to content in all JAMA Network journals and has approximately 125,000 registered users. In addition, the weekly JAMA electronic table of contents is distributed to approximately 580,000 individuals, approximately 1 million Online First alerts are sent each week, there are more than 400,000 social media followers, approximately 3.5 million weekly viewers/listeners of the JAMA video news report, and approximately 16,000 listeners to JAMA podcasts each week. In 2015, this remarkable reach was reflected in 24 million PDF/HTML downloads from our website (50 million across the entire JAMA Network) and 3 JAMA articles2-4 were in the top 100 (of 2.5 million) most widely publicized articles in the world based on Altmetric scores.

In addition, we extend our appreciation to all who read, access, listen to, use, and learn from JAMA content in any format and venue. We continue to strive to publish timely and practical clinical information along with major research articles. For instance, reports from the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) are now being published in JAMA5 with USPSTF Recommendation Statements and Evidence Reports addressing important clinical preventive services. These reports, based on systematic reviews of the
literature, guide preventive services in the United States and around the world and are considered among the most rigorous, authoritative preventive recommendations produced. In addition, we have added clinical podcasts that are focused on a discussion of issues relevant to clinicians; recent examples include “Antibiotic Therapy for Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Adults,” “Dietary Guidelines for Americans,” and “Peripheral Neuropathy” (available at itunes .com/jamanetwork). In the coming year more changes in JAMA and the JAMA Network specialty journals are anticipated. Most recently, JAMA Cardiology, the newest journal in the JAMA Network journal family, launched its first issue last month.6,7

We are honored to have the opportunity to interact with and serve the clinical, scientific, and academic community of authors and reviewers who contribute to JAMA and all who read and access our content. Our editorial priorities are to pursue and publish the best research articles and most useful clinical material possible, foster thoughtful discussion and address controversial issues in medicine and health care, and continue to develop creative, innovative, and vibrant ways to deliver scientific and clinical content effectively and efficiently.

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REFERENCES