

A new era of opportunity – securing excellence for our Journal

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“Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

- John F Kennedy

The Australasian College of Paramedicine (ACP) has a distinguished history of supporting, promoting and disseminating research in paramedicine. Central to that outcome has been its longstanding commitment to scientific journal publishing by way of what is currently our journal, the Australasian Journal of Paramedicine.

In 2003 the Australasian College of Ambulance Professionals (‘ACAP’), the precursor organisation to ACP, published the inaugural edition of the Journal of Emergency and Primary Health Care (‘JEPHC’).(1) JEPHC grew steadily over the following years under the stewardship of Professor Frank Archer, providing a platform to showcase Australian paramedicine research and increase translation of research into practice. In 2012, JEPHC entered a transitional period and went on a 12-month hiatus; the Journal needed reinvigoration, a new identity, and to be repositioned to ensure its survival into a second decade. The Journal re-emerged in 2013 with a new identity and a refreshed editorial team led by Associate Professor Malcolm Boyle.(2) Renamed and repositioned as the Australasian Journal of Paramedicine, the Journal again grew and evolved, proving itself to be a valuable disseminator of research in paramedicine and a strong proponent of Australasian paramedicine research and evidence-based practice.

Almost a decade later, in what might constitute a case of ‘back to the future’, AJP has now entered a transitional period as it seeks to build towards a 3rd decade of growth and expansion. The past decade has seen substantial change in the discipline of paramedicine and rapid expansion of paramedicine research. Concurrently, scientific publishing in paramedicine has evolved, giving rise to new and innovative opportunities and modalities for disseminating evidence, stimulating critical debate, and promoting an informed discourse in our profession. Against this background, it is essential that our Journal evolves to enable it to secure its position as an international leader in paramedicine research and scientific publishing.

In November 2021, AJP commenced a hiatus on new submissions that will continue until mid-2022. An interim Editor in Chief, Associate Professor Paul

Simpson, was appointed to oversee the operations concurrent to a transition strategy being developed. A Journal Advisory Committee (‘JAC’) with international membership was tasked to advise the College on the future direction of the College’s Journal. The JAC have consulted widely with researchers in and outside of paramedicine, and with experienced leaders in the journal publishing space, to identify best practice models that will be sustainable and give the Journal the best opportunity to grow and prosper into the future.

The future of the Journal is bright. The review of the Journal’s editorial and publishing infrastructure is complete, and appointment of a new editorial board is imminent. Importantly, the renewed Journal will maintain its connections to the AJP and JEPHC era by bringing the existing archives over. Further, the Journal will continue its commitment to open access publishing at no cost to authors.

It is expected that the new Journal will launch in early 2023, heralding a new decade of excellence and progression with a stronger international focus and a resolute commitment to progressing the scientific discourse in paramedicine. The reopening of submissions for the first edition of the relaunched journal is expected in October 2022.

In the interim, the College is pleased to announce the release of the Volume 19 (2022) of AJP, consisting of articles submitted prior before to the submission hiatus in 2021. Readers will note several enhancements in this volume, including a fresh and contemporary article format and primary author linkage to ORCID. Under the Journal’s continuous publishing model, articles currently in the editorial system will continue to be published throughout 2022.

We find ourselves on the cusp of an exciting new era for the Journal; one that will be characterised by boldness, innovation and agility, and underpinned by a commitment to continuous quality improvement, and a focus on publishing high quality international research and enhancing author and reader experience.

REFERENCES

1. Archer F. In this Issue. Journal of Emergency Primary Healthcare. 2003; 1(1)
2. Boyle M. Resurgence of an Australasian Prehospital Journal. Australasian Journal of Paramedicine 2013;10.1