

Editorial

Scientific publishing in a pandemic

Malcolm Boyle PhD is Editor-in-Chief¹ and Academic Lead²

Affiliations:

¹Australasian Journal of Paramedicine

²Paramedic Education/Program Director Paramedicine Programs, Griffith University, School of Medicine, Queensland

<https://doi.org/10.33151/ajp.18.896>

Worldwide, 2020 was a difficult and challenging year for everyone, including for publishers of scientific journals. Many journals had difficulty sourcing reviewers because people were busier in unexpected ways and could not review a manuscript, or those who were able to review a manuscript often struggled to get it done in the prescribed time due to work and personal commitments.

However, although a lot of research was suspended or delayed due to the pandemic, many articles were published covering the various aspects of COVID-19 and its wide-ranging effects. A majority of journals prioritised manuscripts related to COVID-19, as did the Australasian Journal of Paramedicine (AJP).

Throughout 2020, the AJP published eight articles (1-8) with a COVID-19 focus. These articles ranged from 'COVID-19 – legal and ethical implications for your practice' by Townsend and Eburn (6) to a case study from Indonesia, 'Transfer of a critically ill coronavirus disease patient' by Sulisto and colleagues (5). Three students from Griffith University in Queensland (with guidance from their lecturer) wrote about the effects of the COVID-19 lockdown on their university educational experience and the potential flow-on impacts (4); and a commentary by Armour and colleagues discussed consensus guidelines for paramedic-led intubation during a pandemic (1).

Even with this challenging year, the AJP published 51 research-related articles, slightly more than in 2019. We are confident that 2021 will also prove to be a positive in a publishing sense as we continue to receive manuscripts from national and international authors covering a broad range of topics.

Conferences (which also rely on people's research) were held during 2020 but most were conducted online – including the Australasian College of Paramedicine's International Conference, which received excellent attendance supported by a range of quality presentations and posters (2). Given the unlikelihood of significant international travel in the foreseeable future, online conferences may be with us for some time yet.

So, as we enter another year of uncertainty, the AJP's editorial team look forward to meeting the challenges of 2021 as we continue to publish peer-reviewed articles from Australasia and around the world.

References

1. Armour RD, Helmer J, Deakin J. Paramedic intubation during a pandemic: where are the consensus guidelines? *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine* 2020;17. Available at: <https://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/article/view/806> doi: <https://doi.org/10.33151/ajp.17.806>
2. Australasian College of Paramedicine. Australasian College of Paramedicine International Conference Abstracts – Oral and

- Poster Presentations. *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine* 2020;17. Available at: <https://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/article/view/888> doi: <https://doi.org/10.33151/ajp.17.888>
3. Brittain M, Michel C, Baranowski L, et al. Community paramedicine in British Columbia: a virtual response to COVID-19. *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine* 2020;17. Available at: <https://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/article/view/813> doi: <https://doi.org/10.33151/ajp.17.813>
 4. Perkins A, Kelly S, Dumbleton H, Whitfield S. Pandemic pupils: COVID-19 and the impact on student paramedics. *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine* 2020;17. Available at: <https://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/article/view/811> doi: <https://doi.org/10.33151/ajp.17.811>
 5. Sulistio S, Habib H, Mulyana R, et al. Transfer of a critically ill coronavirus disease patient. *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine* 2020;17. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.33151/ajp.17.864>
 6. Townsend R, Eburn M. COVID-19 – legal and ethical implications for your practice. *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine* 2020;17. Available at: <https://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/article/view/796> doi: <https://doi.org/10.33151/ajp.17.796>
 7. Whitfield S, MacQuarrie A, Boyle M. Responding to a cardiac arrest: keeping paramedics safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine* 2020;17. Available at: <https://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/article/view/809> doi: <https://doi.org/10.33151/ajp.17.809>
 8. Whitfield S, MacQuarrie A, Boyle M. Trained, ready but under-utilised: using student paramedics during a pandemic. *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine* 2020;17. Available at: <https://ajp.paramedics.org/index.php/ajp/article/view/799> doi: <https://doi.org/10.33151/ajp.17.799>