

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK Eight Years at the Helm

Mitchell D. Feldman, MD, MPhil¹ and Richard L. Kravitz, MD, MSPH²

¹Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA, USA; ²Division of General Medicine, UC Davis, Sacramento, CA, USA,

J Gen Intern Med 32(12):1269-72 DOI: 10.1007/s11606-017-4190-z © Society of General Internal Medicine 2017

⁻ itchell Feldman: Well, I guess this is it.

Richard Kravitz: I suppose that depends on what your definition of "it" is.

MF: I mean that this issue of JGIM is the very last one we'll publish together.

RK: If I were the sentimental sort, I might pause to reflect on that. But I thought I would start with a few facts.

MF: Real or alternative?

RK: You decide. Between July 2009 and September 2017, JGIM received a total of 11,877 manuscript submissions and published 3047 articles. From a base of just under 1000 "peerreviewable" articles (original research, reviews, and perspectives) submitted in 2010, JGIM received 1300 such submissions in 2016, while over the same period, acceptance rates for original research articles fell from 24% to 10%.

MF: So, competition for space in the journal increased. What about our Impact Factor?

RK: The Thomson Reuters Journal Impact Factor rose steadily from a base of 2.65 in 2009 to 3.70 in 2016. However, JGIM's relative ranking in the General Medicine and Health Care Sciences and Services improved only marginally, meaning that JGIM's competitors are improving too. However, under our tenure, JGIM gained recognition as the #1-ranked journal in the Primary Health Care category according to the Google Scholar h5-index. As you know, the h5-index of a publication is the largest number h such that at least h articles in that publication were cited at least h times each over a 5year period.

MF: You and I have talked a lot about what Journal Impact Factor really means. JGIM has resisted the temptation to "game" the system by, for example, encouraging self-citation, preferentially publishing material from well-known authors, or engaging in some of the more extreme forms of self-promotion. Nevertheless, we know that authors look at the Impact Factor when deciding where to submit their best work, and we've tried to strike a balance between maintaining JGIM's reputation for research rigor and seeking material that is likely to draw attention and get cited. I think we've made progress, but there is still much for the next editorial team to do.

RK: Yes, they have an exciting road ahead. I'm sure you remember our early days with the journal. When we began our term, we were guided by the principle that JGIM is a journal for generalists committed to improving the world in which they practice, teach and conduct research. We aimed to publish data derived from settings where real patients live and real doctors practice ("practice-based evidence"), as well as reviews and tools that clinicians and educators use to do their jobs more effectively, efficiently, and humanely (thereby supporting "evidence-based practice"). We were lucky to inherit the strong editorial legacy of Bill Tierney and Martha Gerrity, and also a terrific editorial management team headed by Cindy Byrne and then Jenni Clarkson at Regenstrief Institute in Indiana. Some of our early goals were to streamline submission categories, reduce turnaround time, introduce new content in clinical medicine and in the humanities, increase JGIM's web presence, and find new ways for the journal to add value for readers.

MF: And, remarkably, we got most of that done. Between 2009 and 2016, the average time from submission to initial editorial decision for externally reviewed manuscripts decreased from 72 to 59 days. We introduced new clinical content such as Clinical Images and Exercises in Clinical Reasoning that informed and challenged our readership. One experiment in the medical humanities ("Text and Context") proved unsustainable, but others ("Materia Medica") flourished. Our collaboration with the Annals of Internal Medicine has allowed us to attract some high-quality manuscripts that may not have come our way, but that have the potential for greater impact than the average JGIM paper (e.g. systematic reviews, larger clinical trials, epidemiological studies) and are also consonant with the needs and interests of our readers. Then, in one of our more brilliant moves, we recruited Neil Mehta to run JGIM Web. Neil not only created a working web portal; he also recruited, trained, and sustained an all-volunteer team of JGIM Web editors, many of them medical students, residents, and junior faculty. Finally, we made the commitment that most, if not all, original research content in JGIM would be accompanied by expert commentary. And by increasing the number of published editorials and introducing Capsule Commentaries, we did just that.

RK: You make it sound easy. As we've discussed, the future of medical journals is pretty murky. People have rightly asked what value journals and journal publishers add that justifies high subscription and open access prices. After all, peer

Published online October 4, 2017

review is a volunteer activity, and a shrinking fraction of readers pay attention to the way articles are collated within issues. We often joked that when we put a monthly issue together, our goal was "Sgt. Pepper's," but most readers access information these days more like iTunes. When information is immediately searchable via the web, it's less important how it's organized. The reason we have doubled down on editorials and Capsule Commentaries is because this is how journals add value: by highlighting controversies, by providing clinical and policy context, and by stimulating debate. If it is to continue to survive and thrive, JGIM will need to keep adding value—perhaps through a more robust and interactive "Letters" section, perhaps by putting Mike Clarke's recommendation ("reports of clinical trials should begin and end with an up-to-date systematic review") into practice, perhaps by developing interactive and increasingly intelligent web tools that can deliver an engaging learning experience exactly at the time of need.

MF: And we should be sure to mention that we could not have accomplished anything without the dedication and good judgment of our volunteer group of *JGIM* deputy editors who have helped us build on the reputation for high quality that *JGIM* enjoys. We are fortunate that many of our most experienced deputy editors have remained on our team throughout our tenure. This is gratifying in light of the increasing financial and other pressures on faculty members in academic general internal medicine nationally. We are grateful for their service.

RK: And speaking of service, JGIM relies on a dedicated group of peer reviewers to examine findings, scrutinize methods, and help authors improve their work. In 2016-2017, JGIM reviewers volunteered their time and expertise to review about one-third of the approximately 1500 manuscripts JGIM receives each year. During this period, 724 reviewers provided a total of 882 reviews with a mean quality score of 4.3 on a scale of 1 to 6 (as judged by JGIM Deputy Editors). Of these, 151 provided at least two reviews, and 9 provided three or more. We are indebted to them for their service. Among this group of dedicated peer reviewers, there is a group of top performers who stand out. Reviewers included in this group performed at least two reviews between July 2016 and June 2017, returned all reviews within 30 days, and received a quality score of four or greater on all reviews. An asterisk identifies the 84 reviewers who meet these criteria. We congratulate them on their service to the academic community and thank them for their efforts on behalf of the journal.

MF: Well, I think that's it. What are you going to do with all of your newfound spare time?

RK: Fortunately, I'm not too worried about that. As we both appreciate, the life of an academic generalist is infinitely rich and varied, and I expect I'll continue teaching, doing research, and seeing patients in clinic and in the hospital, just as I've been doing for almost three decades. I'm also thinking about writing a murder-mystery novel that begins as our intrepid journal editor discovers a shocking peer-review scandal.

MF: Maybe stick to medicine. RK: Good idea.

Dewaters, Ami*

Dhaliwal, Gurpreet

Diefenbach, Michael

Dobrosielski, Devon

Dhruva, Sanket*

Dinardo, Deborah

Dobscha, Steven

Dogra, Anjali

Doshi Ruchi

Douketis, Jim

Driscoll, Mary

Dubé, Tim*

Duda, Nancy

Dugdale, David

Dutton, Gareth

Higgins, Diana

Hines, Anika*

Hofer, Timothy

Hogarth, Michael

Hoggatt, Katherine

Hoffman, Ari

Holmes John

Holzer, Lukas

Hoppe, Jason

Howell, Embry

Hrisos, Susan

Hsu, Douglas

Hsu Gerald*

Huang, Hsiang

Hussey, Peter

Ilgen, Mark

Isik, Arda

Inui, Thomas

Islam. Nadia

Ivers, Noah

Iver, Geetha

Jackson, Christopher

Jackson, George

Jackson, Jeffrey

Jackson, Sandra

Jacobs, Elizabeth

Jain, Snigdha

Jarmul, Jamie*

Jena, Anupam

Johnson, Kay

Jones, Amie

Jones, Barbara

Mark, Dustin

MiguelA

Marsh, Anthony*

Marton, James

Martinez-Gonzalez,

Marchica, Amanda*

Jennings, Marisa*

Jegadeesan, Ramprasad

Jinjuvadia, Raxitkumar

Johnson-Lawrence, Vicki

Jay, Melanie

Jan. Arif

Ivlev, Ilya

Huang, Yen-Ming

Humensky, Jennifer

Hwang, Seungyoung

Hsiao, Chun-Ju(Janey)

Howell, Erik

Dv. Svdnev

Ho, Minh

Duong, Jonathan*

Dworsky, Michael*

Hochman, Michael*

Du, Yu

Dezee, Kent

JGIM Reviewers, 2016–2017

Admane, Sonal* Afarideh, Mohsen Alavi, Reza Alley, Dawn Allsworth, Jenifer Allyse, Megan Ammannagari, Nischala Anderson, Emily Anderson, Johanna* Anderson, Timothy*

Andrews, Jane Andrews, Rebecca Anklesaria, Zafia* Anthierens, Sibyl Arora, Zubin* Ashrafioun, Lisham Assmann Susan Assoumou, Sabrina Athavale, Ambarish Auriemma, Catherine Averbukh, Yelena* Baig, Arshiva Banderudrappagari, Rajesh* Bao, Yuhua* Baradhi, Krishna Barengolts, Elena Barnes, Geoffrey Barnes, Hilary Barnes, Meredith Barry, Declan Barry, Lisa Barterian, Linda Barton, Jennifer Batal, Holly Bates, Carol Baudendistel, Tom

Baughman, Amy

Bautista, Christopher* Beasley, John Becker, William* Beckman, Thomas Beckta, Jason* Beidinger-Burnett, Heidi Conlin, Paul Cook, David Cordasco, Kristina Coronado, Gloria Cosco, Dominique Croskerry, Pat Crouse, Elisa Cummings-Vaughn, Lenise Cunningham, Amy Cupp, Julia Cusack, Caitlin Custers, Eugene D'amico, Elizabeth Dahn, Jason* Dalal, Anuj Dalton, Jarrod Daneschvar, Homayoun Danis, Marion Dankner. Nathan Davis, Elizabeth Davis, Michael DavisGiardina, Traber Davydow, Dimitry Decamp, Matthew Delbanco, Tom Dewaay, Deborah

Bell, Sigall Bender, Ralf Benitez, Joseph* Bennett, Ian Berg, Wendie Berger, Amy Berger, Gabrielle* Bergman, Jonathan Berkenblit, Gail Berkowitz, Seth

Berliner, Elise Berner, Eta Bertholet, Nicolas Berz, Jonathan Best, Jennifer Beste, Lauren Bezler, Natalie Bharmal, Nazleen Bian, John* Bianswanger, Ingrid BirruTalabi, Mehret* Blosnich, John

Blumenthal, Kimberly Boccuti, Cristina Bonifacino, Eliana Bonn-Miller, Marcel Bonner, Jason Bonny, Olivier Bosworth, Hayden Bowen, Deborah Boyde, Raymond Bradley, Elizabeth Bradley, Michael Breckons, Matthew

Brettschneider, Christian Broers Barbara Broitman, Marina* Brooks, Elizabeth Brown, Edward Bruti, Christopher* Bump, Gregory Earnest, Mark Eid, Shaker Eisenberg, Floyd El-Jawahri, Areei Elias. Thistle Ellaway, Rachel Elliott, Marc Elsheshtawy, Moustafa* Emmerich, Anne Eng, Jessica Etz. Rebecca Evans, Elizabeth Feinglass, Joe Feng, Bo Fenton, Joshua Fine, Lawrence Fingerhood, Michael Finley, Erin Fischer, Michael Fischer, Shira Forrow, Lachlan Foth. Thomas* Fowler, Floyd Fralick, Michael Frank. Maria Franklin, Gary

Buranosky, Raquel Burke, James Burke, Jessica Burkitt Michael Burton, Michael Buttorff, Christine Byhoff, Elena Cain. Jeff Caines Laurie Campbell-Yesufu, Mobola Caplan, Gideon Caraballo, Ralph Carnahan, Jennifer* Carney, Patricia Carson, Jeffrey Carter, Jocelyn* Cene Crystal Chadha, Jagriti Chaiyachati, Krisda* Chamberland, Martine Chan, Brian* Chan, Stephanie* Chander, Geetanjali

Chandler, Seth Chandra, Ramesh Chandrasekhar, Rameela Chang, Evelyn Chanprasert, Sirisak Chavez, Augustine Cheladurai, Yohalakshmi Chen, Elizabeth Chen, Jessica* Chen, Melinda Childers, Julie Chou, Ann Chowdhury, ImranHussain Chuang, Cynthia

Chung, Yoonkyung Clark, Amanda Cleary, Paul Cochran, Susan Cohn, Steven Cole, Megan George, Benjamin Ghatalia, Pooja Ghosh, Arkadipta Gibson, Carri-Ann Gionfriddo, Michael* GiuliiCapponi, Michela Glass, Joseph Glowinski, Anne

Gnanajothy, Rosana Gnanaraj, Jerome Goldstein, Carly Goldstein, Karen Goncalves, Ana Good. Chester Goodman, Francine Goodman, Kenneth Gould, Jon Goyal, Ravi Gray, Kristen Green, Lee Grossman, Ellie Grotzke, Marissa Gulati, Swati Gunderson, Craig* Guo, Ling Gupta, Ankit

(continued on next page)

. (continued)

Frasso, Rosemarv

Freiman, J.Morgan

Frogner, Bianca Fuld. Jennifer Furman, Andrew Gagliardi, Jane Gajendran, Mahesh Gajulapalli, RamaDilip Gamble. VanessaNorthington Ganiats. Ted Ganz, David Garcia, Maria Garin, Nicolas Garla, Vishnu Garrido, Melissa Garrison, Scott Garvin, Jane* Geha, Rabih* Gellad, Walid Genevro, Janice Jones, Christine Joseph, Robert Jubelt, Lindsav Kahwati Leila Kalkhoran, Sara* Kanady, Jennifer Kandula, Namratha Kangovi, Shreva Kanter, Genevieve* Kanter, Michael Karches, Kyle* Karim, Mahzuz Karippot, Asha Karnes, Jason Karpiak, Stephen Kassakian, Steven Kathol Roger Kavati, Abhishek Kearns, Mark Keith. Rosalind Kenvon, Nicholas Khawaja, Imran Kidd, Jane Kiefer, Meghan Kimball, Sarah King, Christopher Kipp, Aaron Kohli, Amar* Kohlmann, Wendy Kormos, William Kroth, Philip Kruppa, Nicole Kruse, Gina Kuhn, Kristi Kullgren, Jeffrey Kuon, Carla Kurtzman, Ellen Lacour-Chestnut, Frene Ladapo, Joseph Lafreniere, Justin Lalmuanpuii, Judy Lamantia, Michael Lampman, Michelle* Landon, Bruce Larochelle, Marc* Larsen, Douglas* Murimi, Irene Murphy, Daniel NaderiMahbadi, Ali Nagaraja, Vivek Nambudiri, Vinod

Gupta, Arjun Guy, Michelle Haas, Jennifer Hajjar, Joud Halkar, Meghana Han, Wencui Hannah, William Hansen, Ryan Hargraves, Ian

Harrison, James Hart, Laura* Hartz, Sarah Hartzell, Joshua Hausmann, Leslie Heisler, Michele Helms, Rebecca Henry, Stephen* Henschel, Frank Hessler, Christine Hicken, Margaret Lasser, Karen Latham, Kenzie Lauffenburger, Julie Lawrence Karen Laws, M.Barton Layton, Timothy Lazarus, Cathy Leasure, Emilv* Lee. Jessica Lee, Joy Lee, Rita Leekha, Surbhi LeepHunderfund. Andrea Leff, Bruce Lei, Pui-Wa Leng, Xiaoyan Lessing, Juan Leung, YingYing"katy" Levine, David* Lin, Kyaw Linder, Jeffrey Linzer, Mark List. Justin Liu, Chienving Liu, Chuan-Fen Liu Haivan Liu, Kathy Lo-Ciganic, Wei-Hsuan* Locke, Kenneth Lombardi, Angela Longo, Lisa Lopp, Lauri Lorig, Kate Lowenstein, Margaret* Lum, Hillary Lyons, Maureen* Lypson, Monica Ma, Chenjuan

Macy, Eric Mafi, John Majumdar, Sumit Makam, Anil Malik, Manpreet Mallory, Renee Mangurian, Christina Mann, Adrienne Patel, Mitesh Pauly, Nathan Paz, David Pedersen, Eric

Penti, Brian

(continued on next page)

. (continued)

Martsolf, Grant

Mas, MiquelÀ. Masi, Christopher Matta, SimranKaur Maust, Donovan Mccarthy, John Mccurley, Jessica Mcfarland, Craig Meginnis Kathleen Mcleod Heidi McmahonJr., Laurence Mcmillan, Sara Mcnamara, Megan Mcnamara, Peggy Mcvay, Megan Medarametla, Venkatrao Mehta, Sanjeev Mejia, Raul Menon, Anish Meredith. Lisa Meyer, Ashley Meyers, David Miake-Lye, Isomi

Michel, Jeremy Michtalik, Henry Mieczkowski, Alexandra Mills. Whitney Miner Sarah' Miranda, Jeanne Mishuris, Rebecca Misra-Hebert, Anita* Mittal, Ashok Mohanka, Manish Mohiuddin, Ahmed Molina, Yamile Montori, Victor Morain, Stephanie Moreland, Christopher Mori. Deanna Morrison, Katherine Moss, Karen

Robertson, Douglas Rogers, Elizabeth* Romanelli Robert Romo, Rafael* Rose, Danielle Rose, Susannah Rosenberg, Walter Rosenthal, Daniel Rosenthal, Meredith Rossom, Rebecca Roth, Katalin Rothberg, Michael Roy, Brita Roy, Payel* Rudd, Mariah Ruggero, Camilo Rumball-Smith, Juliet Rustici Matthew Saag, Harry Safer, Joshua Saffar, Darcy Saloner, Brendan Samuelson, Bethany Sandberg, Shana Sandoval, Marie Santulli, Gaetano Sarrazin, MaryVaughn Savani, Ghanshyambhai

Sawatsky, Adam Sawaya, George

Nandagopal. Lakshminaravnan Nandiwada, DeepaRani Narayanan, Santhosshi Nebeker, Camille Nelson, Erik Nelson, Nick Neubauer, Brian Neuss, Michael Newby Celeste Newman, Jeff Ng, ChinTeck Ng, Henry Ngov, Likheng Nguyen, Oanh Niessen, Timothy* Nouer, Simonne Nutan, Fnu O'connor, Patrick O'keefe, Meaghan O'malley, Ann* Obi, Engels Odoms-Young, Angela Okafor, Chukwumeka

Olayiwola, J.Nwando Ono, Sarah Ornelas, India Ornstein, Katherine Oser, Megan Ott, Brian Ousager, Jakob Ozanne, Elissa Pace, Lydia Page, Cameron Palacio, Ana Pandey, Soumya Parasa, Sravanthi Parent Brendan Paris, Joel Park, TaeWoo Parks, Anna Pasupula. DeepakKumar Patchett, David Secora, Alex Segal, Gad Sethi Jasobanta Shah, Nilay Shaheen, Amy Sharma, Anjana Sharma, Rashmi Sheldahl, Amv* Shelton, Jeremy Sheu, Leslie Shoag, Jonathan Shroff, Swati Siegel, Elena Silva, Abigail Simmons, David Simon, Gregory Simpson, Scot Singh, Aparajita Singh, Hardeep Singh, Harpreet* Sittig, Dean Skoven, Jane* Smetana, Gerald Smith, Dustin Smith. Peter Sobota, Mindy Sofaer, Shoshanna Sokolove, Robert

Song, Zirui Soones, Tacara

Perez. Hector Permpalung, Nitipong Perrier, Arnaud Perry, Cynthia Petterson, Stephen Pilla, Scott Pincavage, Amber* Plantinga Laura Pomerantz, Andrew Ponte, Belen Poon, Eric Popova, Lucy Power, Melinda Priva, Aruna Priyanka, Priyanka Psek, Wayne Rabin, Elaine* Radomski, Thomas Raghavan, Sridharan* Rajkumar, Aarthi Ramachandran, Ambili Ramakrishnan. Praveen Ramasamy, Ranjith Ramsey, Alex Rastegar, Darius Ratanawongsa, Neda Ratcliff Chelsea* Razack, Saleem Redley, Bernice Reese, Jennifer Reichard, Amanda Reid Rachel Reikes, Andrew Renn, Brenna Reuben, David Riess Helen Riggs, Kevin Riva, Nicoletta Roberts, Eric Roberts, Susan

Pereira-Lima, Karina

Talari, Preetham Talwar, Divya Taylor Stephanie TenCate, Olle Teoh, Deanna Tepper, Miriam Thielke, Stephen Thimmisetty, Ravi Thompson, Hale Thumula, Vennela Tilstra, Sarah* Tinetti, Mary Tobey, Matthew Tobin. Daniel TobinTyler, Elizabeth Tohme, Fadi Traino, Heather True. Gala Truglio, Joseph Tseng, Eva Tsilimingras, Dennis Tumilty, Emma Turner, Robin Ulloa, Erin Underwood, Martin Unruh, Mark* Vafaei, Afshin VanDenBerk-Clark, Carissa' VanGroningen, Nicole VanderWeg, Mark

(continued on next page)

. (continued)

Schaepe, Karen Soong, Christine Vanneman, Megan* Schapira, Marilyn Spann, Stephen Vassilakis, Athina Scharf, Eugene Spencer, Michael Venkataramani, Maya Schiff, Gordon Spitzer-Shohat, Sivan Vipond, Bertrand Schmidt, Jennifer St-Onge, Christina Vogeli, Christine Stack, Shobha Vohra, Parag Schnittker, Jason Schoenbaum, Michael Stickrath, Chad VonKorff, Michael Schoenfeld, Adam Stockdale, Susan Vyas, Ami Schroeder, Steven Stracci, Fabrizio Wagholikar, Kavishwar* Schultz, Ellen* Sullivan, Mark Wagner Marvam Schwartz, Mark Walden, H.Douglas Sweeney, Shannon Sciamanna, Chris Szymusiak, John Wallhagen, Margaret* Scioli-Salter, Erica Taber, Jennifer* Walz, Stacy Scott, Suzanne Tai-Seale, Ming Wang, Chenchen Tait, Alan Wang, Emily Seaman, Aaron Sears, David Talamantes, Efrain Wang, Zhen Warm, Eric Whittle, Jeff Ye, Siqin Winkelman, Tyler Yellowlees, Peter Wasfy, Jason Washington, Donna Winnike, Allison Yin, Jianvi* Wasson, John Winston, Lisa Yoon, Jean Waterer Grant Witkop, Catherine* Young, Eric Wearne,Susan WitkoskiStimpfel, Amy Yudell, Michael Witt, Daniel Wee. Christina Zambrana, Ruth Weimer, Melissa* Wittenberg, Eve Zar. Fred Weinberger, Andrea Wood, Timothy Zhu Junya* Weinberger, Steven Wu, Stephen Zisberg, Anna Weiss, Audrey Xu, Jiayun Zullig, Leah Wendler, Dave Yang, Jianji Zulman, Donna West, Colin Yanovski, Susan Zunzunegui. MariaVictoria White, Douglas Yates, Scott Zwijsen, Sandra

*Superior Reviewer, defined as >=2 reviews, quality score no lower than 4 of 6 on any single review, no review returned past 30 days

Corresponding Author: Mitchell D. Feldman, MD, MPhil; Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Fransisco, CA. (e-mail: mfeldman@medicine.ucsf.edu).