Manuscript Submissions to
Orthopedics: New Requirements

Robert D. D’Ambrosia, MD, Editor-in-Chief

In the past decade, manuscript submissions to Orthopedics have increased 330%. This phenomenon is not unique to our Journal, given the increasing pressure on orthopedic faculty both inside and outside the United States to publish their work in journals that are indexed by Medline/PubMed and have a published impact factor.

While we are pleased to see growing interest by authors in being published by the Journal, it presents an issue with the amount of time and resources required to process this ever-increasing number of manuscript submissions. It has been overwhelming for the Editors, Editorial Board, volunteer reviewers, and editorial office to manage these submissions. Drs Terry Thompson and Vikas Patel serve as Associate Editors. They have done a terrific job with helping to address the increased submissions, while at the same time being more selective in accepting articles for publication. Currently about 25% of submissions are published.

As you may be aware, all content in Orthopedics is freely accessible online at www.healio.com/orthopedics. In order to sustain this model, given the increase in number of submissions, we have decided to implement a submission fee for some manuscript types to help offset some of the costs of peer review and production. In the near future, we will be implementing a fee requirement of $190 for submitted Feature Articles and Case Reports. Waivers will be available for authors who are current Orthopedics Editorial Board members and corresponding authors from the developing countries participating in the World Health Organization HINARI program. Fees will not apply to Review Articles, Tips & Techniques Articles, Guest Editorials, and other regular department features.

This submission fee is not meant to impose a restriction on manuscript submissions, but rather to assist with the costs of handling them. We are committed to providing peer review of all submitted manuscripts, as well as other important author services such as copyediting and professional page makeup, which unfortunately are being devalued in an environment that allows for vanity publishing in many open access journals that don’t provide these services.

For over 35 years, Orthopedics has served to further the knowledge base of orthopedic surgeons by publishing relevant clinical information, including clinical research, new techniques, and informative case studies. It has maintained its original mission of making the print issue free to all orthopedic surgeons and expanded that mission online by making its content freely accessible to everyone. Before the end of 2014 we will be posting all 37 years’ worth of content online. We’ve come a long way since volume 1, and I hope you will continue to include the Journal in your journey toward professional growth and development, whether as a reader, an author, or both.