

COMMENT FROM THE EDITOR

Making a Great Journal Even Better



With this issue, a new board of editors (BOE) will assume leadership of *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CGH)*. We follow in the footsteps of exceptional leaders in our field whose vision and commitment has positioned *CGH* as one of the most respected journals in digestive diseases.¹ Currently, *CGH* has more than 18,500 subscribers with over 875,000 page views and 322,000 unique users each year, with a truly global footprint. *CGH's* readership includes constituencies in the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. As the incoming BOE, we have an incredible opportunity to leverage the remarkable strengths of an already great journal.

The New BOE

The incoming BOE is a distinguished, geographically and demographically diverse team of the highest-quality experts. The team has a broad and deep knowledge of all areas in clinical and translational sciences within digestive diseases. The associate editors are well positioned in the fields of inflammatory bowel disease, esophageal disorders, motility and functional gastrointestinal (GI) disorders, liver, and pancreaticobiliary disorders—their expertise mirrors the content covered by the most impactful manuscripts recently published in *CGH*.^{2–6} The BOE also includes a remarkable group of special section editors, a biostatistical editor, and a decision analysis/cost-effectiveness editor. Our BOE also represents a significant departure from the traditional institution-based journal board, including the best people

regardless of where they are located. Our editors are from 11 different academic institutions on 3 continents. These editors will also serve as ambassadors of the journal and use their networks to broaden the global reach and visibility of *CGH*. Each editor is well placed to identify submissions in rapidly moving disciplines and even identify possible high-impact studies in preparation prior to any journal submission.

Our Priority Will Be to Solicit, Publish, and Disseminate the Best Content

The primary mission of *CGH* is to report original discoveries in clinical and translational digestive disease science with the highest level of rigor and objectivity. We will continue with *CGH's* tradition of emphasizing original novel and impactful research. We will maintain the diversity of manuscripts by the organ system they cover and publish across the spectrum of clinical, translational, epidemiological, and health services research.

We Will Modify the Content of Few Existing Sections and Launch a Number of New Content Categories to Serve and Engage Our Audience

We will broaden the scope of the Practice Management: The Road Ahead section to cover the components in the value-based medicine equation: evidence-based care, patient-perceived value, and cost of delivering such care. This section

will provide information on health-care delivery innovation, payment reforms, patient-reported outcomes and education materials, and novel methods of data collection to feasibly demonstrate the value of digestive disease care that clinicians deliver to their patients. See the accompanying introductory article by Dr Ziad Gellad in this issue of *CGH*⁷ for more details regarding the enhanced Practice Management: The Road Ahead section.

We will also enhance the Narrative Reviews (previously called Perspectives in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology) section. Perspectives is one of the top three sections in *CGH* in terms of popularity within our readership as well as online views and downloads. We will maintain this section but expand its content coverage to include a wider range of review article formats. Most of the articles are expected to include in-depth reviews on timely topics of high relevance to the digestive disease community. These reviews will include overviews of disease pathophysiology, epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment approaches. This section will also be a home for more focused reviews of important aspects of a condition or treatment based on available evidence and expert opinion. Where possible, we will explicitly ask the authors to include their expert opinion on topics for which the evidence base is incomplete and robust data are lacking. Although the editors will commission some of these articles, we are also interested in receiving unsolicited articles from thought leaders in the field.

We will introduce in January 2018 a new section called Here and Now: Clinical Practice. This section will replace the current Advances in Translational Science section. We expect this new clinical practice

section will serve as a go-to resource for practicing clinicians. Some examples of the topics covered in this section include time-tested endoscopic techniques for commonly encountered problems such as brief tips to avoid looping during colonoscopy, perform safe polypectomy, and effective hemostasis; advanced methods that require specialized expertise such as endoscopic submucosal dissection, pancreatic stent placement, and radiofrequency ablation; and the use and interpretation of novel diagnostic tools that may have the potential for routine use in clinical practice.

Several Other Initiatives Are Planned to Promote *CGH*

We have planned several other initiatives, ranging from enhancing the look of the journal to improving the quality of the review process as well as leveraging novel technologies and media resources to present published content. Starting from this issue, you will see the new Table of Contents that fits on 2 pages (front and back) compared with 4 pages in the previous issue; the Table of Contents displays a substantial amount of information without appearing cluttered or busy. We have also streamlined the content included in the Issue Highlights section; it now includes succinct summaries highlighting the main approach and key findings of selected articles. By shortening each summary, this section will cover a large number of leading articles in each issue.

We will maintain emphasis on responsiveness and transparency during the review process. All editors will document the rationale underlying all decisions in a clear and

concise summary for transmission to the authors. Where possible, we will explicitly state which comments must be addressed and which are optional. Currently, the accepted articles are posted online and indexed in PubMed within 1 week. We will work toward reducing this time further. Last but not the least, I am very excited about our new podcast initiative. Beginning in January 2018, we will release monthly podcasts called "Editor's Audio Summaries." The editors will host each month's recording and provide a brief overview of that issue's content.

CGH Turns 15

In the next 5 issues, we will present special content to pay tribute to *CGH*'s 15th anniversary. This will include a commentary from all previous editors-in-chief highlighting the vision, focus and achievements of their tenures. We will also showcase 5 landmark articles previously published in *CGH* with invited commentaries from their authors. These special articles will discuss how their study contributed to the evidence base and how the latter has evolved since the publication of their article. We will also develop an online collection of some of the high impact papers published in *CGH* since its inaugural issue in January 2003.

I will end this commentary with a note of sincerest gratitude to Dr Hashem B. El-Serag and his BOE (I am honored to be one of them!). During the last tenure, the total number of submissions as well as the impact (and not just the impact factor!) of *CGH* grew substantially as Hashem shepherded *CGH* to new heights of excellence.⁸ He achieved this while serving as the Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (then transitioning to becoming the

Chair of Medicine) at Baylor College of Medicine and running an extremely successful research program, including receiving a \$10 million grant to establish the Trans-Texas Hepatocellular Consortium and authoring over 160 manuscripts, most in journals other than *CGH*, in the last 5 years alone. It is because of Hashem's nudging, bordering on a push, that I applied for and received the honor of joining the ranks of some of the giants in the field. I also thank the American Gastroenterological Association journals' editorial staff for their unshakeable dedication and commitment to the mission of *CGH*. With the constant support of *CGH*'s staff and the vision and energy of the incoming editors, we strive to make a great journal even better!

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Conflicts of interest

The author discloses no conflicts.

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