

## SIGN OF THE TIMES: PART I

## Journal Venues for Clinician-Educators

Robert Smola, MD; Carlos A. Estrada, MD, MS; and Ryan Kraemer, MD

*Dr. Smola is a PGY-2 resident at the Tinsley Harrison Internal Medicine Residency Program, Dr. Kraemer is assistant professor of medicine and assistant program director, and Dr. Estrada is division director at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the senior scholar at the Birmingham VAMC Quality Scholars Program.*

“Someone should write that up!”

This phrase is frequently heard at the end of a case conference or morning report. Not only is publication in peer-reviewed journals an important step in the training of medical students and resident physicians, but it also remains an important criterion for advancement and promotion for clinician-educators at most academic institutions.

“Where should I publish my medical education project?” You may hear this question repeated at faculty or national meetings. Every day, clinician-educators innovate teaching and evaluation methods, implement new curricula, and conduct original educational research.

Choosing the right journal venue for publication can become a challenging roadblock for many trainees and junior faculty. Below we list our answers to commonly asked questions about journal selection.

### At what point in the writing process should I select a journal?

We suggest selecting several target journals early in the writing process since the format, length requirements, and style of the journal will have a significant impact on the writing process.

### Which journals publish case reports and medical education projects?

In order to facilitate the submission of case reports and medical education projects, we have updated the list of journal venues published in a 2011 issue of *SGIM Forum*. (<http://www.sgim.org/publications/sgim-forum>). Journals are listed according to their most recent impact factor. Medline-indexed status was

determined by inclusion in the National Library of Medicine catalogue. We also included relevant journals from recent reviews and an annotated bibliography.<sup>1,3</sup> Additionally, Dr. Peña et al. provided a list of venues for quality and safety work in the August 2011 *SGIM Forum*.<sup>4</sup>

### What factors should I consider when selecting a journal?

Perhaps the most important criterion in journal selection is making sure the journal has a manuscript category that fits your article. Visit the “instructions for authors” page on the journal’s website to see what manuscript categories are available for publication. Here you will find guidance for the structure of each type of manuscript submission along with word, author, and table/figure limits. To find a category that fits your article, take a moment to think about the strengths of your submission. For instance, if a major strength of your case report is an interesting image, then perhaps an “images” category would fit best. On the other hand, if you have a case with a poignant teaching point, then a full case report with discussion may fit better. For a brand new innovative medical education topic, a brief report such as *Medical Education’s* “Really Good Stuff” may fit well,<sup>5</sup> whereas a more developed curriculum with several rounds of evaluation data would likely need a full manuscript category. Other important considerations are listed below:

- **Impact Factor.** This is a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal is cited. Journals with high impact factors usually have

lower acceptance rates. A highly innovative single-center study or a multi-center well-designed educational research study have better chances of being considered for publication in more prominent journals. At a minimum, we look for journals indexed in PubMed.

- **Publication Cost.** Cost varies from none to \$2,000 to \$3,000. Setting aside the debate of the professional value of journals that charge publication fees,<sup>6</sup> we avoid expensive journals. We reserve paying publication costs for certain journals that require a small fee per page published or when a grant can cover the cost of a worthwhile project and we have an interest in wide dissemination. Additionally, some figures for case reports and clinical vignettes are just better displayed in color. Finally, a small publication fee is worth spending to empower the novice writer.
- **Journal Audience.** The readership of a journal will vary based on its intended target audience. Most journals will list their mission statement or aims on their website. Review this information to see if your manuscript is a good potential fit for the journal.
- **Journal Style.** Once you have identified a preliminary list of target journals, review the table of contents of a few issues as well as a few publications. It will give you an idea of the type of articles published and writing style.

continued on page 2

## SIGN OF THE TIMES: PART I

continued from page 1

### How do I know if a journal publishes in this area?

Perform a focused literature search by restricting only to the journal. In PubMed, one can search a specific journal by selecting “Advanced” search and changing “All Fields” to “Journal.” A journal that just published a very similar study is less likely to consider yours. At the same time, a journal that regularly publishes on the topic may be interested in innovative approaches to examine the same problem. If a journal venue has never published a related topic, contacting the editors with a short summary of the purpose of your work may help clarify fit. Such communications are not “binding,” and we have found them useful.

### How many journals should I select?

We usually pick several journals with similar requirements of varying impact factors. If our article is rejected by the first journal, we will take the suggestions/feedback to see if it can be improved for subsequent submission. This improves the overall chance of successful publication.

### What is the MedEdPortal?

The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) provides a peer-reviewed publication venue for medical teaching materials, assessment tools, and faculty development

resources on MedEdPortal.<sup>7</sup> In addition to a description of the medical education initiative, MedEdPortal allows uploading of educational materials for dissemination.

### How else can I get advice on journal selection?

Ask your co-authors and colleagues about journals that have published their work. Additionally, ask if they will share from which journals they have had submissions rejected. This information can be valuable as you gain experience with different journals in your area.

Additional tips and suggestions for identifying and moving case reports from concept to publication are available from Drs. Mookherjee and Berger in the June 2015 SGIM Forum.<sup>8</sup> Also, Dr. Rebecca Blanchard et al. recently published strategies for submitting educational innovations for publication in *JGME*.<sup>9</sup>

### References

1. Azer SA. The top-cited articles in medical education: a bibliometric analysis. *Acad Med* 2015 [Epub ahead of print].
2. Roy B, Willett LL, Bates C, Duffy B, et al. For the general internist: a review of relevant 2013 innovations in medical education. *J Gen Intern Med* 2015; 30:496-502.
3. Coplit L, Fornari A, Greenbery L, et al. AAMC-Regional Groups on Educational Affairs (GEA).

Medical Education Scholarship, Research and Evaluation Section (former RIME Section).

Annotated bibliography of journals for educational scholarship. Available at: [https://www.aamc.org/download/184694/data/annotated\\_bibliography\\_of\\_journals.pdf](https://www.aamc.org/download/184694/data/annotated_bibliography_of_journals.pdf)

4. Peña A, Taylor B, Patrician P, Estrada CA. Journal venues for safety and quality improvement publications. *SGIM Forum* 2011; 34(8):10-11. Available at: <http://www.sgim.org/publications/sgim-forum/past-issues/2011-forum-issues>.
5. Medical Education’s really good stuff. Available at: [http://online.library.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1365-2923/homepage/ForAuthors.html](http://online.library.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1365-2923/homepage/ForAuthors.html).
6. Butler D. The dark side of publishing. *Nature* 2013; 495:433-4.
7. MedEdPortal. Available at: <https://www.mededportal.org/> (accessed on August 30, 2015).
8. Mookherjee S, Berger G. Case reports: a “how-to” guide for attendings. *SGIM Forum* 2015; 38(6): 8-9. Available at: <http://www.sgim.org/publications/sgim-forum/past-issues/2015-forum-issues#sthash.XX22tvoB.dpuf>
9. Blanchard RD, Nagler A, Artino AR Jr. Harvest the low-hanging fruit: strategies for submitting educational innovations for publication. *J Grad Med Educ* 2015; 7:318-22.

SGIM

For more information, see: **Case Reports/Clinical Vignettes & Imaging—General Internal Medicine**  
continued on page 3



Online Supplement to:  
Journal Venues for Clinician-Educators  
Robert Smola, MD; Carlos A. Estrada, MD, MS; Ryan Kraemer, MD

SGIM FORUM. 2016, 39 (1): 8,10.  
<http://www.sгим.org/publications/sгим-forum>

## Case Reports/Clinical Vignettes & Imaging – General Internal Medicine

All Peer-Reviewed; Impact Factor – 2014

### Medline Indexed:

- *New England Journal of Medicine* (IF 55.9): <http://www.nejm.org/>; Case reports, 1-3 patients or family, limits: 2000 words, 25 references, 3 tables/figures; “Images in Clinical Medicine”, limits: 150 words, 2 authors, 1-2 images
- *The Lancet* (IF 45.2): <http://www.thelancet.com/>; Case reports, limits: 600 words, 5 references, 2 images/figures
- *JAMA* (IF 35.3): <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/journal.aspx>; “very rare for JAMA to publish case reports.”
- *Annals of Internal Medicine* (IF 17.8): <http://annals.org/>; Clinical Observation, limits: 600 words, 5 authors, 5 references, 1 table/figure
- *British Medical Journal* (IF 17.4): <http://www.bmj.com/>; Clinical review, limits: 1800-2000 words
- *JAMA Internal Medicine* (IF 15.0) (formerly Archives of Internal Medicine): <http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/journal.aspx>; Case reports/series, limits: 1000-1200 words, 5 authors, 10-15 references, 4 tables/figures
- *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* (IF 6.3): <http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/>; case reports, limits: 800-1800 words, 2 tables/figures, 7 pages double-spaced
- *Journal of Internal Medicine* (IF 6.1): [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1365-2796](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1365-2796); Case reports “considered in exceptional circumstances,” limits: 1500 words
- *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (IF 6.0): <http://www.cmaj.ca/>; “Practice” case reports, limits: 1600 words, 2 authors, 10 references; “Clinical Images”, limits: 300 words with image
- *American Journal of Medicine* (IF 5.0): <http://www.amjmed.com/>; “Clinical Communications to the Editors”: case report, limits: 1 patient, 650 words, 1 page total, 1 table/figure/image
- *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (IF 3.4): <http://www.springer.com/medicine/internal/journal/11606>; “Clinical Vignettes,” limits: 2000 words, 200 word abstract, must be member of SGIM; “Clinical Images,” limits: 200 words with image, 3 authors
- *European Journal of Internal Medicine* (IF 2.9): <http://www.ejinme.com/>; “Internal Medicine Flashcards”: clinical case with images, limits: 400 words, 3 authors, 3 references; case reports generally not published without “highly innovative findings.”
- *Journal of Hospital Medicine* (IF 2.3): [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1553-5606](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1553-5606); “Clinical Care Conundrum”: requires approval by JHM editorial staff; limits: 2750 words, 20 references, 4 tables/figures (\*\*doesn’t accept case reports/series – CCC’s are discussions by “expert clinicians” on therapeutic or diagnostic dilemma)
- *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* (IF 2.1): <http://jrs.sagepub.com/>; hybrid open access – fees ranging \$750-1195 for full open access depending on journal selection; “Grand Round”: case reports, limits: 1000 words, 10 references, 2 tables/figures
- *Journal of Women’s Health* (IF 2.1): <http://www.liebertpub.com/overview/journal-of-womens-health/42/>; Case reports, limits: 4000 words

## SIGN OF THE TIMES: PART I

continued from page 3

- *Postgraduate Medicine* (IF 1.7): <https://postgradmed.org/>; No fee for “standard track”; \*\*No longer guaranteeing DOI citation for case reports but still publishing few case reports and “Puzzles in Practice”
- *Postgraduate Medical Journal* (IF 1.4): <http://pmj.bmj.com/>; no case reports; “Images,” limits: 500 words, 2 illustrations, 5 references
- *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences* (IF 1.4): <http://www.amjmedsci.com>; \$50/page publication fee; “Case-Letter,” limits: 1500 words, 5 authors, 7 references, 1 table/figure; “Images in the Medical Sciences,” limits: 1 or more images with “short paragraph” narrative, 3 references, 1 manuscript page
- *Journal of Family Practice* (IF 0.9): <http://www.jfponline.com>; Case Reports, limits: 750 words, 10 references; “Photo Rounds Friday,” limits: 150-200 word background, 1-3 photos, 500-700 word discussion
- *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine* (IF 0.9): <http://www.jpjgmonline.com/>; \$50 image/figure fee; case reports, limits: 1000 words, 4 authors, 10 references; “Images in clinical medicine,” limits: 800 words, 4 authors, 6 references; “Case Snippet,” short case, limits: 4 authors, 500 words, 5 references

### Medline Indexed – Open Access Only:

- *BMC Medical Research Methodology* (IF 2.3): <http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmmedresmethodol/>; \$2145 open access fee; case reports, no specified limits
- *American Journal of Case Reports* (IF n/a): <http://amjcaserep.com/>; \$895 open access fee
- *BMJ Case Reports* (IF n/a): <http://casereports.bmj.com/>; \$297 “fellow” open access fee; case reports and imaging, limits: 4 authors
- *BMC Research Notes* (IF n/a): <http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcrresnotes/>; \$1230 open access fee; case reports, no specified limits
- *Journal of Medical Case Reports* (IF n/a): <http://www.jmedicalcasereports.com/>; \$1065 open access fee; limits: 3 authors, 15 references, 10 figures/images

### Non-Medline Indexed:

- *Clinical Case Reports* (IF n/a): <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%292050-0904>; \$800 open access fee; case reports, clinical images, or clinical videos; limits: 1000-1300 words
- *Clinical Medicine Insights: Case Reports* (IF n/a): <http://www.la-press.com/clinical-medicine-insights-case-reports-journal-j91>; \$1848 open access fee, no specified word, author, or reference limits
- *Clinics and Practice* (IF n/a): <http://www.clinicsandpractice.org/index.php/cp>; €250 open access fee; case reports, limits: ~2000 words, 20 references, 3 tables/figures
- *Grand Rounds* (IF n/a): <http://www.grandroundsjournal.com/>; £149 open access fee; case reports, limits: ~1500 words, 20 references, 4 figures; unlimited images allowed
- *International Journal of Case Reports and Images* (IF n/a): <http://www.ijcasereportsandimages.com/>; \$285 open access fee; “Case Reports,” limits: 1500 words, 6 authors, 10 references, 2 tables, 5 figures; “Case in Images,” limits: 1500 words, 4 authors, 15 references, 10-25 figures; “Clinical Images,” limits: 1500 words, 4 authors, 10 references, 1 table, 2 figures
- *International Journal of General Medicine* (IF n/a): <http://www.dovepress.com/international-journal-of-general-medicine-journal>; \$1958 open access fee; case reports, no specified limits
- *International Journal of Medical Science Research & Practice* (IF n/a): <http://www.ijmsrp.com/>; \$150 open access fee; Case reports, limits: 1000 words
- *International Journal of Women’s Health* (IF n/a): <http://www.dovepress.com/international-journal-of-womens-health-journal>; \$1958 open access fee; case report/series, no specified limits

## SIGN OF THE TIMES: PART I

continued from page 4

- **Journal of Clinical Case Reports** (IF n/a): <http://www.omicsgroup.org/journals/clinical-case-reports.php>; \$919 open access fee
- **Journal of Medical Cases** (IF n/a): <http://www.journalmc.org/index.php/JMC/issue/archive>; \$350 CAD open access fee; case reports, no specified limits
- **JSM Clinical Case Reports** (IF n/a): <http://www.jscimedcentral.com/CaseReports/>; \$500 open access fee; specific format on website without set word, author, or figure/table limits
- **Open Journal of Clinical & Medical Case Reports** (IF n/a): <http://www.jclinmedcasereports.com/>; no fee; case presentations, series, and study, no specified limits
- **Oxford Medical Case Reports** (IF n/a): <http://omcr.oxfordjournals.org/>; \$475 open access fee; case reports, limits: 1000 words, 10 references, 10 images, abstract up to 150 words
- **SAGE Open Medical Case Reports** (IF n/a): <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/sage-open-medical-case-reports/journal202143>; \$445 discounted open access fee (\$895 base fee); case reports, limits: 1200 words, 15 references, 2 figures/tables

<b>Peer Reviewed Venues for Medical Education Scholarship &amp; Research</b>
--

Impact Factor – 2014
----------------------

**Medline Indexed:**

- **JAMA: Medical Education Theme Issue** (IF 35.3): <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2190969>; annual issue on medical education
- **British Medical Journal** (IF 17.4): <http://www.bmj.com/specialties/medical-education>; “ABCs of Teaching & Learning”
- **Canadian Medical Association Journal** (IF 6.0): <http://www.cmaj.ca/>; research articles in medical education, limits: ~2500 words excluding abstract, table/figures, references
- **Journal of General Internal Medicine** (IF 3.5): <http://www.springer.com/medicine/internal/journal/11606>; “Innovations in Medical Education:” limits: 2000 words, 2 tables/figures
- **Medical Education** (IF 3.2): [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1365-2923](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1365-2923); numerous manuscript types with different word limits. Examples: Really Good Stuff (innovations in education, 500 words), Review Articles (3,000 words), Commentaries (1,000 words). **Academic Medicine** (IF 2.9): <http://journals.lww.com/AcademicMedicine/pages/default.aspx>; limits: 1500-3000 words, 50 references, 5 tables/figures
- **Patient Education and Counseling** (IF 2.2): <http://www.pec-journal.com/>; section on Medical Education articles
- **Advances in Health Science Education** (IF 2.1): <http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/journal/10459>; original research, “Reflections,” and review in “all aspects of health science education;” no page limit
- **Evaluation & the Health Professions** (IF 1.9): <http://ehp.sagepub.com/>; articles, limits: 20-40 text pages, 3 tables/figures; “Brief Reports,” limits: 6-8 text pages, 1 table/figure; “Notes from the Field,” limits: 2-5 text pages, 1 table/figure
- **Medical Teacher** (IF 1.7): <http://www.medicalteacher.org/>; Articles (2500-5000 words), Short Communications (1700 words), “Personal View”, and “How we...” categories of articles; Focuses on providing “accounts of new teaching methods, guidance on structuring courses and assessing achievement, and serves as forum of communication.”

## SIGN OF THE TIMES: PART I

continued from page 5

- **Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions** (IF 1.4): <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291554-558X>; 3000 word limit on all manuscripts – original research, “Innovations in Continuing Education,” and book reviews
- **American Journal of Medical Sciences** (IF 1.4): <http://journals.lww.com/amjmedsci/Pages/default.aspx>; “The Art and Science for Medical Education:” descriptions of new ideas and innovations in medical education; limits: 750 words, 4 references.
- **Journal of Interprofessional Care** (IF 1.4): <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ijic20#.VgkiWsJdGM8>; original research, systematic reviews, theoretical papers (limit 5,000 words); short reports (limit 1,000 words).
- **Family Medicine** (IF 1.2): <http://www.stfm.org/NewsJournals/FamilyMedicine>; “Innovations in Family Medicine Education:” not limited to family practitioners, limits: 500-1000 word brief reports.
- **Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice** (IF 1.1): [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1365-2753](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1365-2753); research, essays, reviews, and critiques focusing on “all aspects of health services research and public health policy.” No specified limits
- **International Journal of Educational Development** (IF 1.1): <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-educational-development/>; focus on “new insight and foster clinical debate about the role education plays in development.”
- **Southern Medical Journal** (IF 0.9): <http://sma.org/southern-medical-journal/>; “Bioethics and Medical Education;” limits: 3000 words
- **Teaching and Learning in Medicine** (IF 0.7): <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/htlm20#.Va2RZCpViko>; investigations, educational case reports, and observations that are “scholarly investigations of teaching and learning in the health professions.” Limits: 5,000 words
- **Education for Health** (IF n/a): <http://www.educationforhealth.net/>; original research (3000 words); brief communication (1500 words); conference report (800 words) and others
- **Gerontology and Geriatrics Education** (IF n/a): <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wgge20#.Va2gVipViko>; articles related to “research, curriculum development, course and program evaluation, classroom and practice innovation.”
- **International Journal of Medical Education** (IF n/a): <http://www.ijme.net/>; short communications, perspectives and medical educational research; no specified limits
- **Journal of Graduate Medical Education** (IF n/a): <http://www.jgme.org/>; original research, educational innovation, review, brief reports on “curricula, teaching, assessment, quality and safety, program evaluation.” Different word and figure limits based on manuscript category. Distributed by ACGME to all program directors.
- **The Clinical Teacher** (IF n/a): [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1743-498X](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1743-498X); numerous manuscript types with different word limits

**Medline Indexed – Open Access Only:**

- **Journal of Medical Internet Research: Medical Education** (IF 3.4): <http://mededu.jmir.org/>; \$1900 open access fee; research and review articles with “focus on technology, innovation, and openness in medical education.”
- **BMC Medical Education** (IF 1.2): <http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmededuc>; \$2145 open access fee; articles with “special focus on curriculum development, evaluation of performance, assessment of training needs and evidence-based medicine.” No specified limits
- **Medical Education Online** (IF 0.8): <http://med-ed-online.net/index.php/meo>; open access fees of \$325 (meeting reports; letter to editor – 2 page limit), \$775 (short communication – 4 page limit), \$1375 (article – 8 page limit). Focus on “disseminating information on the education and training of physicians and other health care professionals.”

**Non-Medline Indexed:**

- ***Educational Researcher*** (IF 2.5): <http://edr.sagepub.com/>; \$3000 open access fee; research articles, limits: 5000 words, 40 references, 5 figures/tables; reviews/essays, limits: 4000 words, 40 references; briefs, limits: 1000 words, 6 references, 2 figures/tables
- ***The Educational Research*** (IF 0.4): <http://interesjournals.org/ER/>; \$400 open access fee - \*\*not required for publication; articles, no specified limits; short communications, limits: 2-4 printed pages, 2 figures, 1 table; reviews, limits: 4-6 printed pages
- ***Advances in Medical Education and Practice*** (IF n/a): <http://www.dovepress.com/advances-in-medical-education-and-practice-journal>; \$1958 open access fee; main focus on “curriculum development, teaching methodology, student assessment, curriculum evaluation, career planning, teachers’ training, and continuing professional development.”
- ***International Journal of Clinical Medicine*** (IF n/a): <http://www.scirp.org/journal/ijcm/>; \$999 open access; original research and review articles
- ***International Journal of Medical Science Research & Practice*** (IF n/a): <http://www.ijmsrp.com/>; \$150 open access fee; original research paper, limits: 4000 words, 40 references
- ***Journal of Biomedical Education*** (IF n/a): <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/jbe/>; \$500 open access fee; original research and review articles; no specified limits
- ***Journal of Continuing Education and Professional Development*** (IF n/a): <http://jcepd.uscip.us/>
- ***MedEdPublish***. From MedEdWorld, a global medical education community, Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE). AMEE organizes education conferences and publishes Medical Teacher. <http://www.mededworld.org/MedEdWorld-Papers.aspx>. Resource papers with peer-review following publication. Membership required.
- ***Journal of Education and Training Studies (JETS)*** (IF n/a): <http://jets.redfame.com>; original reports, indexed in ERIC. Focus in consumer education, critical pedagogy, curriculum and instruction, educational leadership, educational philosophy, and other non-medicine content. \$300 publication fee.
- ***Medical Science Educator*** (IF n/a): <http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/journal/40670>; \$3000 open access fee
- ***Seminars in Medical Practice*** (IF n/a): <http://turner-white.com/smp/smp01.php>; original reports “describing approaches to teaching or assessing professional competencies.”