



EDITORIAL

Updates and Initiatives from *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*

Ronald M. Przygodzki (Editor-in-Chief)

From the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, District of Columbia

It has been about ten months since I've become the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics* (*JMD*), and customarily the editor introduces achievements of the year prior. After successfully transitioning into the EIC role I was pleased to welcome Dr. Lynette Sholl to the Senior Associate Editor role and Dr. Rondell Graham as the Associate Editor overseeing solid tumor submissions. There were also eight new members added to the Editorial Board: Gregory Berry, Alanna Church, Avinash Dharmadhikari, Valentina Nardi, Lauren Ritterhouse, Somak Roy, Ryan Schmidt, and Laura Tafe. These individuals represent an excellent cross-section of experience and *JMD* will certainly continue to benefit from their assistance and expertise.

As set forth in my introductory Editorial, I intend to keep *JMD* as a highly utilized resource and destination for advancements in molecular testing.¹ The *Journal* has maintained an impact factor above 5 (5.341) and continues to show growth in content utilization metrics such as overall citations and article downloads. Manuscripts generated by Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) working groups and collaborations continue to be widely well received and *JMD* was pleased to publish four AMP Special Articles, four Practice Advances, and one AMP Perspective article throughout 2022.^{2–10}

The Editorial team continues to work with the AMP Publications Committee on projects and initiatives to generate high quality content and improve the user experience at *JMD*. Though the Publications Committee oversight does not extend to peer review decisions, it is a sounding board for suggested topics and concepts presented by its members and editor, generating future goals and improvements of *JMD* for its readers. As a result of these discussions, *JMD* will be introducing two optional features for new submissions in 2023. First, authors will have the option to include a short 2 to 5 sentence “impact” of the significance and practicality of the given manuscript at the end of an article's abstract. This impact statement will help the

reader grasp whether the topic or findings are what they want to delve into extensively as they read the article. Secondly, authors will now have the option to include a graphical abstract summary figure that will appear with the online version of the published manuscript. Both of these new features would initially be optional and incumbent on the author to develop before peer review.

The November 2022 *JMD* Editorial Board meeting, held in conjunction with the AMP Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ, was well represented in our renewed “in person” meeting after two-plus years of video meetings. We are pleased with the position of our journal and the intent that it serves. Indeed, the mainstay of well-developed, clinically purposeful tests that *JMD* is regarded for will continue to be our cornerstone. We have, however, also discussed what we could do to stir up greater interest and submission by AMP members to *JMD*. As a reminder, AMP members publish in *JMD* at a reduced rate (25% off the non-member rate). We agreed that expanded use of the perspectives and technical advances article categories should generate topics that inform of developments pertinent to molecular diagnostics. Some thoughts, not limited to this list, include the business practices of running a molecular laboratory, which could inform new and seasoned individuals in this craft. It could also align on regulatory and payer aspects essential to be mindful of in our ever-changing environment, factors to be aware of in diagnostic systems, particularly in bioinformatics. It might also be the standardization and harmonization of sensitive patient data that would enable greater depth of analytics. In essence, the gamut of needs in

Accepted for publication November 10, 2022.

Disclosures: None declared.

Address correspondence to Ronald M. Przygodzki, M.D., Office of Research & Development (14RD), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20852. E-mail: ronald.przygodzki@va.gov.



performing molecular tests—the A through Z of elements—could be considered and presented with pros and cons for the reader’s betterment and enlightenment.

The Editorial Board has also supported introducing an editorial feature that could showcase something on the horizon and not yet ready for clinical use. Such a feature would present cutting-edge technologies and techniques that we might consider in our evolving toolkit of molecular tests. Lastly, we are also considering the introduction of a quarterly medical musing, where we would share a poem, haiku, or artwork submission oriented on molecular testing on one page of the *Journal*, to lighten our seriousness in molecular testing.

For the *Journal*’s continued success, we require subject matter experts to become reviewers of and submit to *JMD*, particularly in bioinformatics and infectious disease areas. One of the best ways to get involved is through registration within the Editorial Manager platform (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/jmdi/default2.aspx>). In a different approach, seasoned reviewers might consider having a talented junior individual share in reviewing and shadowing their review and giving them credit for it. I certainly recall such an approach as my first venture into peer review. I am grateful for the trust and opportunity of my mentor as it dispelled a mystery and gave me clarity in what is vital for successful peer review and writing. I encourage you to consider this option and usher junior individuals into the reviewer’s fold.

It is important to mention that the Office of Science and Technology Policy recently released a memorandum entitled “Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research” (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/08/25/ostp-issues-guidance-to-make-federally-funded-research-freely-available-without-delay/>, last accessed November 21, 2022) which mandates that all Federally funded research be published as Gold level Open Access by the end of the year 2025. Importantly, *JMD* currently offers such an option with a 20% discount for AMP member authors at \$2400, with all nonmember authors at \$3000. It is our understanding that the Open Access licenses currently offered by *JMD* are compatible with this upcoming requirement.

Personally, it has been a fantastic year working with Emily Essex, Chhavi Chauhan, and Miranda Barrientos from the Editorial Office. I am indebted to their guidance and suggestions as I am still learning the intricacies of the Office. I also want to thank the Editorial Board for their collective wisdom in improving the *Journal*. Finally, I am

thankful to the contributors and readers of *JMD*, as they genuinely provide the novelties, the sweat equity in molecular testing, and the dedication to helping the patient. All I ask is for you to consider sharing your experiences and talents that make your work and approaches so valuable through submissions to *JMD*, as the collective knowledge makes us all that much better.

References

1. Przygodzki RM: Elements in maintaining a driving force. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:428–429
2. Arcila ME, Snow AN, Akkari YMN, Chabot-Richards D, Pancholi P, Tafe LJ: Molecular pathology education: a suggested framework for primary care resident training in genomic medicine: a report of the Association for Molecular Pathology Training and Education Committee. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:430–441
3. Lyon E, Temple-Smolkin RL, Hegde M, Gastier-Foster JM, Palomaki GE, Richards CS: An educational assessment of evidence used for variant classification: a report of the Association for Molecular Pathology. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:555–565
4. Velu PD, Cushman-Vokoun A, Ewalt MD, Feilolter H, Gastier-Goster JM, Goswami RS, Laudadio J, Olsen RJ, Johnson R, Schlinsog A, Douglas A, Sandersfeld T, Kaul KL: Alignment of fellowship training with practice patterns for molecular pathologists: a report of the Association for Molecular Pathology Training and Education Committee. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:825–840
5. Pratt VP, Cavallari LH, Fulmer ML, Gaedigk A, Hachad H, Ji Y, Kalman LV, Ly RC, Moyer AM, Scott SA, van Schaik RHN, Whirl-Carrillo M, Weck KE: TPMT and NUDT15 genotyping recommendations: a joint consensus recommendation of the Association for Molecular Pathology, Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium, College of American Pathologists, Dutch Pharmacogenetics Working Group of the Royal Dutch Pharmacists Association, European Society for Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Therapy, and Pharmacogenomics Knowledgebase. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:1051–1063
6. Ritterhouse LL, Sholl LM: Neurotrophin receptor kinase: updated perspectives, laboratory considerations, and clinical implications. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:107–108
7. Clements EG, Graf EH: Leading in a clinical molecular laboratory: it is not just about the science. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:109–111
8. Davies KD, Ritterhouse LL, Snow AN, Sidiropoulos N: MET exon 14 skipping mutations: essential considerations for current management of non-small-cell lung cancer. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:841–843
9. Roy-Chowdhuri S, Davies KD, Ritterhouse LL, Snow AN: ERBB2 (HER2) alterations in colorectal cancer. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:1064–1066
10. Carter AB, Abruzzo LV, Hirschhorn JW, Jones D, Jordan DC, Nassiri M, Ogino S, Patel NR, Suciu CG, Temple-Smolkin RL, Zehir A, Roy S: Electronic health records and genomics: perspectives from the Association for Molecular Pathology Electronic Health Record (EHR) Interoperability for Clinical Genomics Data Working Group. *J Mol Diagn* 2022, 24:1–17