With this issue, we complete volume 7 of the *Journal of Community Hospital Internal Medicine Perspectives – JCHIMP*. In this perspective piece, we will briefly review the history of the journal and its raison d’être. The *Annals of Internal Medicine* recently celebrated its 90th birthday. We are celebrating JCHIMP’s 7th. We will discuss recent changes related to our publisher change at the end of volume 6.

1. Journal history

JCHIMP was conceived at the Minneapolis national meeting of the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine during its Community Hospital Assembly in 2010. With the expert guidance of David Solomon [1], a pioneer in medical electronic publishing, we selected our publisher – Co-action Publishing of Stockholm, Sweden. Our first issue was posted in 2011 and was largely a Baltimore operation [2].

We experienced excellent growth almost immediately and saw a rapidly expanding readership. After the first few years, there were some transitions for the journal editorial leadership. The editor (Robert Ferguson) changed institutional bases in Baltimore, from Union Memorial Hospital to Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC). These changes led to a slowdown in our growth rate in 2013 and 2014. The new arrangements and logistics transiently reduced the number of issues and publications. The associate editor, Richard Alweis, also relocated from Reading, PA, to Rochester, NY, in 2016. In moving to Rochester as DIO, the journal was able to add that system’s sponsorship. The other major change that came to pass was the publisher transfer to Taylor and Francis, a large organization based in the UK and other European countries. The transfer caused significant delays in publications early in 2017 and was partially responsible for the drop in publication numbers as the delays in processes caused some authors to withdraw (Table 1). We telescoped publication dates later in the year in order to meet our self-imposed quota of six issues in 2017. Looking ahead, we expect a normal every 2 months’ publication cycle in 2018, starting with February.

2. Open access publishing and JCHIMP

Electronic open access publishing has many advantages over the paper medium. It is much faster and less expensive to produce. From the beginning, under Dr Solomon’s guidance, we have stayed with this approach [3]. Although some in the electronic medium recommend immediate publication of accepted manuscripts [4] as soon as they are type set, we maintain ‘issue publications’. We believe, as does the JCHIMP editorial board, that the majority of health care professionals prefer receiving their scientific journals that way. Although bad timing can lead to month long delays, it is still much faster than paper (R4). And when the timing is fortuitous, it can be amazingly efficient. One recent example demonstrated this. We were approached in August 2017 about publishing a manuscript dealing with a survey of 2016 applicants to the internal medicine fellowship match. The 10 authors wanted to expedite publication if possible so that the survey information would be published before the current 2017 fellowship process was completed. The manuscript was published in October, volume 7# 5, less than 3 months after it was initially submitted.

3. Publication statistics

With this issue containing 11 papers, we have now published 447 manuscripts in 7 years of existence in 35 issues. Our acceptance rate in 2017 as of mid-November is 74%. We expect in 2018 to exceed our previous high of 110. It is exciting to see the variety and

CONTACT Robert Ferguson <rferguson@gbmc.org>

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locations of the authors – from 15 states and 3 foreign countries (Table 2).

With the transition to the new publishing platform now completed, we are better able to track article downloads for our papers. During the first quarter of this year, as the platform was continuing its development process, article downloads were down from historical norms, but had returned to pre-transition levels during Quarter 3, with 14,508 article downloads during those 3 months. We anticipate further growth during Quarter 4 and achieving new record levels for the journal. Citations of papers in the journal are also on the rise, and our work has been featured in a wide variety of highly respected journals, such as Academic Medicine, American Journal of Emergency Medicine, American Surgeon, Annals of Internal Medicine, BMC Medical Education, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Eye, Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research, Journal of Graduate Medical Education, and Medical Teacher to name just a few. JCHIMP is now indexed in the Clarivate (formerly Thomson Reuters) Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). After 18 months in the ESCI, a journal is automatically reviewed, and, if the citation activity is significant, it will then be included in the JCR, and given an official impact factor. The journal is in a good position to achieve this status at the time of the review, and speaks to the high quality of the work published here.

4. Peer review

A most important part of any peer review journal is the peer-review process which is a major influence on a journal’s editorial practices. We now have in excess of 600 individuals on our active peer reviewer list. Many are residents and medical students who have not previously worked in the peer-review process (Table 3).

Inexperienced reviewers are guided in the process [5]. We make certain to not ask them to do more than that of which they are capable. A good review is time-consuming when done carefully and thoughtfully. We don’t want to overburden any individual reviewer. Having the critical mass of reviewers that we now have allows us to limit most reviewers to no more than two requests per year. We have also compacted our review times from three weeks to two. This allows us to move on to alternate reviewers if necessary sooner.

Table 1. JCHIMP no. of manuscripts and issues per year.

| Year | No. of manuscripts | No. of issues per year |
|------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 2011 | 31                 | 4                      |
| 2012 | 41                 | 4                      |
| 2013 | 30                 | 3 (due to Hiatus)       |
| 2014 | 60                 | 5                      |
| 2015 | 90                 | 6                      |
| 2016 | 110                | 6                      |
| 2017 | 90 estimated       | 6                      |

Table 2. Institutions published in JCHIMP in 2017.

| Institution                                                                 | Location |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Abington Jefferson Health, PA                                             | PA       |
| Easton Hospital, PA                                                        | PA       |
| Greater Baltimore Medical Center, MD                                      | MD       |
| Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital, PA                                        | PA       |
| Hurley Medical Center, MI                                                 | MI       |
| Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NY                               | NY       |
| Interfaith Medical Center, NY                                             | NY       |
| Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, NY                                        | NY       |
| John T. Mather Memorial Hospital, NY                                      | NY       |
| Maryland ACP                                                               |          |
| Medizinische Universitat Graz – Austria                                   | Austria  |
| MedStar Harbor Hospital, MD                                               | MD       |
| New York Presbyterian Hospital, NY                                        | NY       |
| New York University SOM, NY                                                | NY       |
| OSF St. Francis Medical Center, IL                                        | IL       |
| Reading Health Systems, PA                                                | PA       |
| Rochester Regional Health, NY                                             | NY       |
| Saba University                                                            |          |
| Saint Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, OH                                   | OH       |
| San Joaquin General Hospital, CA                                          | CA       |
| St. Francis Medical Center, NJ                                             | NJ       |
| St. Louis University, IL                                                   | MO       |
| St. Luke’s Hospital, MO                                                    | MO       |
| Trinitas Regional Medical Center, NJ                                       | NJ       |
| Trios Health                                                               |          |
| Universal College of Medical Sciences, PA                                 | PA       |
| University of Alberta, Canada                                              |          |
| University of California San Diego, CA                                    | CA       |
| University of Central Florida, FL                                         | FL       |
| University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, IL                   | IL       |
| University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, IA                                | IA       |
| University of Maryland, MD                                                 | MD       |
| University of Mississippi Medical Center, MS                              | MS       |
| University of Tennessee, TN                                                | TN       |
| University of Texas Medical Branch @ Galveston                           |          |
| UPMC Mercy                                                                 |          |
| Virginia Tech Carilion SOM, VA                                            | VA       |
### Table 3. JCHIMP peer reviewers, 2017.

| Name                        |
|------------------------------|
| Ana Abaroa Salvatierra       |
| Imad Abdulmajeed             |
| Mohammad AbuHishmeh          |
| Khalid Abusaada              |
| Amesh Adalja                 |
| Amtiess Agarwal              |
| Manyoo Agarwal               |
| Sharjeel Ahmad               |
| Badr Othman AlBadr           |
| Chuck Albrecht               |
| Osman Ali                    |
| Hassan Alkhawam              |
| Ahmed Al-khazraj              |
| Yanan Alhimer                |
| Richard Alweis               |
| Karla Arce                   |
| Nobuhiro Ariyoshi            |
| Hamza Aurakzai               |
| Fred Bali                    |
| Babar Bashir                 |
| Talha Bashir                 |
| Sijan Basnet                 |
| Karen Beekman                |
| Ewelina Biskup               |
| Patrick Brine                |
| Dolores Buscemi              |
| Wayne Campbell               |
| Lucien Cardinal              |
| Stephanie Chan               |
| Lawrence Cheung              |
| Chester Choi                 |
| Dobbie Cheung                |
| John Cmar                    |
| Ricardo Conti                |
| Gordon Crabtree              |
| Stefan David                 |
| Janaki Deeepak               |
| Anthony Donato               |
| Jennifer Dooley              |
| Shideh Doroudi               |
| Ryan Steven D’Souza          |
| Abhiram Duvvuri              |
| Asher Edwards                |
| Ahmed Elantably              |
| Emmanuel Elueze              |
| Margaret Eng                 |
| Alex Essenmacher             |
| Robert Ferguson              |
| Laurel Fick                  |
| Paul Foster                  |
| Andrew Frei                  |
| Ethan Fried                  |
| Joseph Fuscaldto             |
| Sonal Gandhi                 |
| Vishnu Garla                 |
| George Waldon Garriss        |
| Ibrahim Ghobrial             |
| Julietta Gilson              |
| Venkata Subhash Gorrepati    |
| Sunil Goyal                  |
| Gaurav Gulati                |
| Mohammadali Habibi           |

(Continued)
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Finally, we’d like to thank our readers. Your continued interest in and support of our journal, as well as your patience with the journal during the publisher transition this year, is deeply appreciated. Look for more big things from the Chimp in 2018!

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

Table 3. (Continued).

| Name            |
|-----------------|
| Ankita Shashidhar |
| Chirag Sheth |
| Mansur Shomali |
| Nazia Siddiqui |
| David Gary Smith |
| Shauna Thariath |
| Jayaram Thimmapuram |
| Jack Tomen |
| Dena Tran |
| Nay Tun |
| Patrick Twohig |
| Hakim Uqdah |
| Ahsan Wahab |
| David Weisman |
| Manajyoti Yadav |
| Jessica Young |
| Amr Youssef |

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