Commentary

The AJPE Journey Continues in Advancing Scholarly Excellence in Pharmacy Education Publications

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ABSTRACT

This issue of the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education (AJPE) is the start of an empowering copublishing partnership of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) with Elsevier. The Journal, since 1937, has been committed to providing the highest quality of scholarly publications in all facets of pharmacy education. Our partnership with Elsevier is the next step in our continued journey to publishing outstanding scholarship in teaching and learning across the pharmacy Academy. The Journal will now have greater impact and outreach through the ScienceDirect Freedom Collection. Authors, reviewers, editors, and our pharmacy Academy will benefit through enhanced services available through the Elsevier innovative publishing platform.

With this issue, the editors, editorial board, and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) board members and staff are excited to welcome the next phase of our exciting American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education (AJPE) journey in its position as the official AACP scholarly publication by entering a dynamic copublishing partnership with Elsevier. AACP’s copublishing partnership with Elsevier provides an important and timely opportunity to further advance the missions of the Journal, AACP, and Elsevier. There will be enhanced opportunities and contemporary state-of-the-art publishing formats and tools for the Journal to facilitate the continued publication of outstanding peer-reviewed work in the scholarship of teaching and learning and to provide a forum for communication of relevant information for pharmacy and interprofessional education for those passionate and interested in the advancement of pharmacy education.

This partnership complements the mission and vision of AACP to advance pharmacy education, research, scholarship, practice, and service in conjunction with our members and external stakeholders with the vision of a world of healthy people through the transformation of health-professions education. Elsevier will be able to bring to the Journal and AACP its important role as a global leader in information and analytics by enabling researchers, educators, and healthcare professionals to advance science and improve healthcare outcomes for the benefit of society.

This decision to copublish with Elsevier was based upon extensive research activities of the association, future scholarly publications of the Journal, and support our AACP individual members and institutions in advancing their scholarly activity. Elsevier will bring over 140 years of supporting the work of research and health partners through its information and global analytics. The scholarly publications of AJPE authors will now have increased exposure to a global audience hosted on ScienceDirect, the world’s premier platform of peer-reviewed literature. ScienceDirect has 1 billion annual visits and over 17,000 licenses around the globe.

Since the Journal was first published in 1937, the editorial team, editorial board, and AACP leadership and staff have been committed to enhancing the Journal’s outreach, availability, and guiding/mentoring AJPE authors and reviewers. The Journal has been able to expand the number of scholarly works published and enhance its outreach efforts through increases in the number of issues per year, moving to online publishing in 2004, increasing the number of associate editors and members of the editorial board in the last 20 years, being accepted to PubMed in 2004, introducing early release in 2017, and a redesigned website in 2020. The editorial team, editorial board, and AACP leadership and staff remain passionate and committed to timely publishing of only the highest quality scholarly work with this new partnership. AACP members will continue to have access to all published papers in the Journal. Those at the many institutions that subscribe to the ScienceDirect Freedom Collection will also have access to Journal content.

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The publishing arena has experienced tremendous growth and innovative technologies to advance and promote scholarly publications. This copublishing partnership with Elsevier will enable the Journal to have access to the newest technologies and publishing tools for both authors and reviewers. We believe our AJPE authors and reviewers will greatly benefit from this partnership. These benefits can be found at the AJPE Frequently Asked Questions. Authors will have 24/7 access to free resources from Elsevier support teams. There are also exciting new elements that can be included in manuscripts submitted with this partnership, including (1) color figures are no extra cost, (2) graphical abstracts (https://www.elsevier.com/authors/tools-and-resources/visual-abstract), (3) supplemental information embedded within your published article, and (4) article highlights or bullet points that can increase the discoverability of an article via the various search engines (https://www.elsevier.com/authors/tools-and-resources/highlights). This partnership will help ensure that accepted manuscripts will typically be available within 48 h in prerelease format. Elsevier’s state-of-the-art online proofing tool will also help reduce the time required for final publication of articles. Authors will be able to share their manuscripts, track the impact of their manuscripts, and have access to resources to promote their research. Our AJPE reviewers will also have new benefits through this copublishing arrangement with access to Elsevier resources (https://www.elsevier.com/reviewers) and the 24/7 support teams (support@Elsevier.com). The Elsevier Reviewer Hub will track activity and reward reviewers for their work with certificates for free access to ScienceDirect and Scopus.

The Journal has a rich history of serving and advancing the publication of scholarly work in our pharmacy Academy that has impacted the profession and other health professions. These Journal achievements are the result of the resolute, committed, and forward-looking editors, editorial teams, editorial boards, and AACP boards and staff who have embraced the significant role that scholarly activities must play in our colleges/schools of pharmacy at all educational levels. Yet, these publications would not have been possible without the many authors over the years who have submitted their excellent scholarly submissions to the Journal and the many committed reviewers who have provided outstanding peer reviews of these submissions. On behalf of the current editorial team, editorial board, and the AACP board and staff, we are truly indebted to the contributions of these individuals who have advanced AJPE over the years. We enthusiastically look forward to expanding the outreach and impact of the Journal. This copublishing partnership with Elsevier will further advance and enable the Journal to increase its presence in publishing scholarly educational research work across health professions centered on the goal of promoting scholarship and improving healthcare outcomes.

Author contributions

Gayle A. Brazeau: Conceptualization, Roles/Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. Lee Vermeulen: Conceptualization, Roles/Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

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Declaration of Competing Interest

None.

References