

## Editorial

---

The Journal is only one edition away from realizing one of Past-Editor Bob Gaensslen's major goals. In July 2002 we will begin publishing accepted manuscripts on the JFS web page linked to either the AAFS web site (at [www.aafs.org](http://www.aafs.org)) for members of the Academy or to the ASTM web site (at [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)) for nonmember subscribers. It is now almost five years since Bob first discussed this idea with the Board of AAFS and with the staff at ASTM. Over those five years, the idea has been refined and all the necessary programming completed. We should thank all the staff at ASTM for the effort and time that has gone into making this goal a reality. In particular, I would like to thank Bob for his commitment to the project and the time he spent in working with ASTM on developing the web site.

The major aims of the project were to allow accepted manuscripts to be published more quickly and to enable photographs and other figures to be published in color in the web-based version at no charge to the authors. (There will still be charges for publishing color figures in the printed version.) Currently, it takes between four and six months for a manuscript to appear in print once it has been accepted by JFS. It is anticipated that this will eventually be reduced to 90 days for the web-based edition. There are a number of factors that may impact this goal; the most important is the number of manuscripts accepted. If this continues to grow, then to meet the 90-day goal it will be necessary to increase both the number of pages and issues for future volumes each year. Another factor critical to this 90-day goal is that authors submit their manuscripts, including photographs and artwork, in properly prepared electronic formats.

What changes are to be expected in the format of the Journal as we make the change to being a web-based publication? The answer is very few, most of which you as readers will not notice. However, we are going to take this opportunity to change the manner in which accepted manuscripts are indexed and presented. Presently peer-reviewed articles are published as Reviews, Papers, Technical Notes, Case Reports, or Brief Communications and indexed in that manner. In addition, non peer-reviewed material (Correspondence, Book Reviews, and For the Record Reports) are published after the peer-reviewed material. To facilitate access to manuscripts in a particular discipline we have decided to change the manner in which the peer-reviewed manuscripts are indexed. A word of thanks is necessary here to Wayne Jones of the Editorial Board. When I assumed the editorship he suggested using a different indexing format that would be easier for readers of JFS. In fact, several multi-discipline scientific journals already do so. As I thought about the web-based version, it became apparent that it was more logical than the one we currently use. Beginning with the July, 2002 issue of JFS, the indexing for the web and printed versions will be as follows:

### Editorials and Invited Commentaries

---

#### Anthropology

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### Criminalistics

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### Engineering

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### General

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### Jurisprudence

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### Odontology

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### Pathology

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### Psychiatry

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### Questioned Documents

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### Toxicology

- Papers
- Technical Notes
- Case Reports

#### For the Record Reports

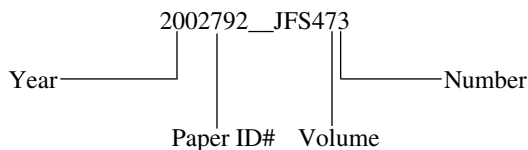
- Correspondence
- Book Reviews
- Other

We have decided to eliminate the Review and Brief Communication categories, as there are very few submissions in either. The former will be included as Papers, unless I invite a respected authority to submit a manuscript in his or her area of expertise, and then it will be included as an Invited Commentary. Brief Commu-

nications will be included either as Technical Notes, Case Reports, or Correspondence.

When viewing the web-based edition, click on the Section Heading to display the papers accepted under each category; clicking on the title will allow you access to that paper. Non-AAFS members and non-subscribers to JFS will be able to see the Title and Abstract, but will have to pay a fee to access the full manuscript. If there are no manuscripts accepted for a Section, that Section's name will not be "highlighted" on the web page and will not be included in the printed Table of Contents.

Beginning with the July 2002 issue, we anticipate updating the web page weekly and publishing one printed version of the Journal every two months, just as we do now. Each volume of the Journal, whether web-based or printed, will include approximately 250 pages. For those of you who are not only readers but also authors, there is another important change, which is the way that the article will be listed in the various citation listings and as a reference in other submissions that you may make. The article will be cited as:



Please remember that this will be the official citation for both the web and paper versions of the article.

Other important changes for authors include:

- **New Instructions for Authors:** these will include a template for submitting manuscripts as Word files by email, disk, or CD Rom and for submitting photographs as 300 dpi TIF files and line art or screen art as 600 dpi TIF files. Originals of figures, photographs, or artwork will still be needed for the printed version.
- **After editing by ASTM staff,** accepted manuscripts (excluding figures, photographs and art) will be returned to the submitting authors as PDF files by email for corrections. Although page proofs (PDF) will still be sent later, the earlier review of PDF files should greatly reduce the number of edits necessary at

page proof stage. This process has been going on for several months now and has received positive comment from authors.

- Page proofs (hard copies) will be sent when the corresponding author does not provide an email address.

Submitters will notice immediately that there is a need for accurate email information, and I strongly encourage you all to supply this with the original submission. I anticipate that by the time this Editorial is published, we will have begun receiving "electronic manuscripts." We will still allow manuscripts to be submitted in the traditional print format, as we realize that not everyone will have the capability to submit electronically.

The Journal would not be what it is today without all the efforts of the Editorial Board Members and the Guest Reviewers. All peer-reviewed journals rely on the expertise and efforts of their reviewers and JFS is no exception. I would like to publicly recognize all the efforts made by these individuals and to thank them for all their work in maintaining the high standards of JFS. Each edition of JFS includes a listing of the Editorial Board Members, and as a token of my thanks and recognition I have included with this editorial a list of the Guest Reviewers who have served the Journal in the last year or more.

These individuals will also be asked to move into the electronic world, just as the authors will be. If one of the goals of a web-based Journal is to improve the turn around time of publication of important scientific information, then it is essential that we insure that reviews are completed promptly. As Editor I can assure you that I will continue to work on this part of the process, but please remember that our reviewers volunteer their time and effort. Not only is it important for reviewers to complete their reviews promptly, it is equally important that authors return any revisions as soon as possible if they wish to have their work published promptly.

These are exciting times for the Journal and I am sure that the next year will have its share of ups and downs. ASTM and I are committed to this project and to producing a web-based Journal that AAFS can be proud to call its own.

Michael A. Peat, Ph.D.  
Editor, JFS  
December 11, 2001

## GUEST REVIEWERS

Jose R. Almiral  
 Dana Austin  
 Scott Batterman  
 Richard Bisbing  
 Thomas Bohan  
 Bruce Budowle  
 Steve Burmeister  
 JoAnn Buscaglia  
 John Butler  
 James Carroll  
 Mary E.S. Case  
 Ranajit Chakraborty  
 Christophe Champod  
 Kate Corney  
 Robin Cotton  
 Dennis Crouch  
 Timothy Curtis  
 David Davies  
 David L. Deuwer  
 Joseph Dizinno  
 David Dolinak  
 Julia Dolan  
 Martin L. Fackler  
 Steve Fain  
 Connie Fischer  
 Corrine Fligner  
 Rodger Foltz  
 Diane France  
 Gregg Gagliardi  
 James Gill

Gregory S. Golden  
 Michael A. Graham  
 Bill Hagmaier  
 Bruce Hall  
 Robert Hall  
 James E. Hamby  
 Rebecca A. Hamilton  
 Neal H. Haskell  
 Steve Homeyer  
 Mark Horrocks  
 Frank Horvath  
 Marilyn A. Huestis  
 Ian W. Evett  
 Thomas A. Johnson  
 Tom Jourdan  
 Steven Karch  
 Ron Kelly  
 Raymond Keto  
 Ke Chung Kim  
 Murray Kleiner  
 Jim Krutak  
 Raymond Kurk  
 Marc LeBeau  
 Steven B. Lee  
 John J. Lentini  
 Wayne Lord  
 Douglas M. Lucas  
 Kathy Lundy  
 Pierre Margot  
 Janet F. Masson

John D. McDowell  
 James McGivney  
 Steve Meagher  
 Reid J. Meloy  
 James M. Messmer  
 Robert A. Middleberg  
 Lamar Miller  
 Mark Miller  
 Andrew Moiseff  
 Keith Monson  
 Wade C. Myers  
 David Nixon  
 Cary Oien  
 William Oliver  
 Theresa Spear  
 Robert Thibault  
 Jim Ryan  
 Carl J. Schmidt  
 Rebecca Schwartz  
 Ken Shull  
 Mark J. Stephan  
 Richard Vorderbrugge  
 Kevan Walsh  
 Dennis Ward  
 Bruce Weir  
 Jeffrey Wells  
 Robert E. Wenk  
 Diana G. Wilkins  
 Don Wray  
 James G. Young