

Editorial

A Reincarnation of the Panamerican Journal of Trauma

Welcome to the reintroduction of the official journal of the Panamerican Trauma Society (SPT). The scope of the journal now extends beyond trauma and includes critical care and emergency general surgery. In the United States, emergency surgery or acute care surgery is a new specialty being developed by the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma. For most members of our SPT however, acute care surgery is a familiar specialty, as they routinely deal with trauma and various general surgical conditions. The previous official journal of our society, the Panamerican Journal of Trauma, is also well-known to our membership. This is a legacy of our past President and Editor-in-Chief, Professor Ricardo Ferrada from Cali, Colombia who single-handedly carried the burden of producing the journal for nearly a quarter century.

Recognizing the importance of having a journal, the executive committee and the board of directors of our society charged a newly formed editorial board to reinvent the journal. Under the able guidance of our past Presidents Drs Coimbra and Pogetti, the new editors chose Jaypee Publishers, an upcoming globally oriented firm from India, as the new publishers of our journal.

It is our great privilege to offer the membership to this forum, where they can freely report their vast experience in the different fields of 'acute care surgery': Trauma, critical care and emergency general surgery. It is well recognized that the South American surgeons, physicians and other health care providers have a vast and rich experience in these areas. Their pioneering efforts in introducing new techniques and paradigms are legendary. The new journal will be an outstanding conduit to promulgate their scholarship and ideas for the benefit of the entire world.

The journal follows a closed peer review process. The editorial board will assess articles submitted to the journal, and those manuscripts that are deemed suitable for peer review will be assigned to at least two expert reviewers. The Editor-in-Chief and the associate editors will decide on whether to accept or reject a manuscript based on reviewer recommendations. We aim to produce three issues a year, a number that can be increased as the demand grows. We encourage all member societies to make this their official journal, to reap the benefits of easy access and a cost-free avenue for publication of their work. The journal's pages will also be available to publish proceedings from their annual meetings. It is also proposed that the member society's name will be prominently displayed on the cover of the journal.

The PAJTCCEGS will defray the costs of publication from article processing charges (APCs), because it does not have subscription charges for its content. The society will pay a fee to the publisher for the production of the journal. The members of the Panamerican Trauma Society and those of the societies who make the journal their official journal will be exempted from the APCs.

The PAJTCCEGS aims to be all encompassing and encourages publication not only in clinical sciences but also in basic sciences related to our specialty. The manuscripts will include case discussions, original articles, case reports, case series, review articles, book reviews, journal abstracts, a section for best practices, innovations section, personalities/history section, letters to the editor and abstracts from the annual Pan American Society Congress. To encourage the younger members of our society, we intend to have a regular feature of 'resident and student corner' devoted to the submissions from those in-training. Another unique feature of our society is our multilingual official languages. The manuscripts in our journal will be in any of the three languages: Spanish, Portuguese and English. The abstracts of the manuscripts will be provided in English and at least one of the other two languages to better serve the entire spectrum of our membership. We hope to have our work referenced in PubMed in a year or two.

We are proud to present you the inaugural issue of our reinvented journal. You will note; it has a collection of editorials from senior members of the society, review articles from experienced traumatologists, case reports from astute clinicians, technical notes from master surgeons and manuscripts from the Americas and elsewhere in the world. Even more gratifying and inspiring are the award-winning papers from our younger generation, presented at the 24th Congress of the Panamerican Trauma Society in Paraguay in 2011.

As we celebrate the 26th year of our society, we hope you will read, enjoy and own our journal. We look forward to receiving your manuscripts and working with you to publish them rapidly and effectively for the benefit of our patients, our society(ties), our countries and our specialty. Together, we can succeed in making the journal relevant and important.

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Editors