

# ABOUT THE JOURNAL

## MISSION

*The mission of The Journal of the South Carolina Medical Association is to advance the art and science of medicine; to promote the ideals of the South Carolina Medical Association; to encourage scholarship and goodwill among South Carolina physicians; and to disseminate information specifically applicable to the health care of South Carolinians.*

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ALL INQUIRIES ARE TO BE DIRECTED TO THE MANAGING EDITOR:

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# TYPES OF ARTICLES

## TYPES OF ARTICLES ESPECIALLY WELCOMED FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 1. CASE REPORTS** - Original scientific observations (including case reports) made by practicing physicians;
- 2. REVIEWS** - Concise, timely review articles (see Priority for Publication);
- 3. TRENDING TOPICS** - Articles pertaining to current social, economic, and/or ethical issues affecting the practice of medicine;
- 4. INFORMATION** - Information uniquely pertinent to the health care of South Carolinians;
- 5. ON BEING A PHYSICIAN** - Short essays on illuminating experiences in practice;
- 6. ON BEING A PATIENT** - Short essays by physicians in their own experiences of illness and accounts written by patients of those close to them;
- 7. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** – Commenting on papers published in The Journal;
- 8. HISTORY OF MEDICINE** - Reports or biographic sketches related to the history and evolution of medicine in South Carolina;
- 9. IDEAS AND OPINIONS** - Essays representing opinions, presenting hypothesis or considering controversial issues;
- 10. AD LIBITUM** - Poetry concerning medicine;
- 11. CLINICAL PICTURES** – Pictures of unusual disease found in practice accompanied with a short discussion and several references;
- 12. HOW I DO IT?** - Descriptions or illustrations of a unique clinical office procedure which would be of value to practicing physicians in South Carolina.

## SYMPOSIUM ISSUES:

The Journal welcomes physicians and organizations to submit topics for symposium issues. A proposal outlining all articles, objectives, authors, and guest editor must be send to the Managing Editor. The proposal will be sent to the entire Editorial Board for a decision.

# INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

## CORRESPONDENCE

All manuscripts and correspondence should be sent electronically to the managing editor at [kmorrow@scmedical.org](mailto:kmorrow@scmedical.org). Tables and illustrations (high quality JPEG files only) should be sent as separate attachments.

## COPYRIGHT

All manuscripts should be accompanied by a transmittal letter to the editor, which should contain the following paragraph:

"This original work has not been submitted or published elsewhere, in entirety or in part. I (we) hereby transfer, assign, or otherwise convey all copyright ownership to the South Carolina Medical Association in the event this work is published by the SCMA."

We request authors to advise the editor of any prior or anticipated duplication of their work in other publications. Submission of material as a "companion article" to material submitted elsewhere is discouraged.

## LENGTH OF ARTICLES

We prefer concise articles of approximately 2,500 words (approximately eight typewritten pages, double spaced), with no more than 10 references.

We regret that space considerations limit our ability to publish longer articles, and request that authors adhere to the above guidelines. Similarly, tables and illustrations (see below), should be kept to a minimum, and be specific and pertinent.

Authors desiring to make additional data or additional references available to readers are encouraged to do so by adding footnotes to the effect that "additional references (or tables derived from this database, etc.) are available from the author (s) upon request."

## MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically (MS Word). The title page should indicate the title, author(s), author's address, email address, telephone number and any academic appointments.

We request that the author's name not appear on subsequent pages, to permit "blind" review of the article, when desired. Authors should retain one copy for use in proofing. Written correspondence concerning proposed (potential) manuscripts is welcomed.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Artwork should be submitted electronically. Image files must be at least 300 dpi at full size. JPEG files are preferred.

Ordinarily, The Journal will pay for publication of four (4) small illustrations or tables, or the equivalent.

Any number beyond this must be paid for by the author except under unusual conditions. Illustrations Along with each illustration, indicate the article title and figure number.

## PRIORITY FOR PUBLICATION

The Journal was founded in 1905 as a forum for practicing physicians to publish their original observations. This purpose continues to receive priority. The growth of institutions, especially of medical school faculties, during this century may be, at least in part, responsible for a decreased tendency for practicing physicians to attempt scholarly work. Concerned about this trend, The Journal encourages practicing physicians to report original ob-

servations, including series of cases or individual case reports.

The Journal also welcomes timely review articles by institution-based physicians. However, it is the philosophy of the Editorial Board that state medical journals do not represent an appropriate forum for research findings of a specialized nature. Such findings, it is felt, belong in national or regional specialty or subspecialty journals. Articles by institution-based physicians should serve the information needs of a general physician readership. Articles dealing with social, economic, and ethical issues are strongly encouraged. Historical or philosophical essays are also welcomed, although these are given lower priority compared to the above categories. Due to space limitations and our desire to encourage scholarship by as many South Carolina physicians as possible, it is our policy to decline publication of more than two (2) manuscripts by one author or group of authors within any calendar year or twelve-month period.

## REFERENCES

These should be cited consecutively in the text, in superscript, e.g., "Bottsford, et al.<sup>3</sup>" We recommend no more than 10 references, selected from more recent publications in accessible journals in most instances. JAMA style and standard journal abbreviations should be used, with the style for journal articles being as follows:

3. Bottsford JR, Bearden RC, Bottsford JG; A ten year community hospital experience with abdominal aorta aneurysms. *J SC Med Assoc*, 1983;79:57- 62.

## REVIEWING AND RESPONSIBILITY TO READERSHIP

We will make every effort to review manuscripts promptly. Our editorial office will review all manuscripts and when indicated, the opinions of outside consultants will be solicited. We welcome criticisms of journal content by members of the South Carolina Medical Association.

## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Upon acceptance of manuscripts for publication, we require disclosure of financial interest in pharmaceutical firms or other business enterprises when such disclosure seems to be appropriate to the editor or to members of the Editorial Board.

## SYMPOSIUM ISSUES

We welcome proposals for special symposium issues. Symposium articles should be no longer than 40 typed, double-spaced pages. Each article should have no more than 10 references. Please contact The Journal office for more information on symposium issues.

## MATERIAL FOR COVER

The Journal welcomes suggestions and illustrations for the cover. Such suggestions should be sent to the editorial office.

## ROE FOUNDATION AWARDS

Through a gift by the Roe Foundation, a Thomas A. and Shirley W. Roe award of \$3,000 has been given each year since 1985. The award is given on alternate years to a practicing physician or to an institution-based physician. All manuscripts submitted by South Carolina physicians will be considered for the award. Thus, manuscripts should not be submitted specifically for this award; rather they should adhere to our priorities for publication. All articles published during the previous two years by either practicing physicians or by institution-based physicians are reviewed and judged by our Editorial Board. The award is presented before the House of Delegates at the Annual Meeting of the SCMA.