

Changes in *Anesthesia & Analgesia* for 2009

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Anesthesia & Analgesia has adopted a number of changes for 2009 that should make the Journal more interesting for both readers and authors, and reflect our continued commitment to the highest standards of ethical research.

Publish Ahead of Print: Beginning in 2009, *Anesthesia & Analgesia* will publish articles electronically several days after the author has approved the galley proofs. This will provide authors and readers a citable and accessible article several weeks prior to publication in the print Journal. This also resolves the dilemma we have faced in collecting related articles into the same issue of the Journal. Organizing such collections necessarily delays publications already in the queue while others catch up. With "Publish Ahead of Print" we can offer authors a typeset, copyedited, and fully citable article as soon as it is ready, while still grouping related articles to make the Journal more interesting to readers.

Public Access for Funded Manuscripts: As of January 2009, our publisher, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, will deposit all manuscripts funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), the Wellcome Trust, and the Medical Research Council (MRC) in PubMed Central on behalf of the authors. The completed articles will be posted to PubMed Central 12 months (for NIH funded papers) or 6 months (for HHMI, Wellcome Trust, and MRC funded papers) following printed publication in *Anesthesia & Analgesia*. Provided authors disclose the study funding source, this new policy ensures that funded authors are fully compliant with NIH, HHMI, Wellcome Trust, and MRC guidelines. As the requirements for open access continue to evolve, the Journal will work with Lippincott Williams & Wilkins to ensure compliance with these requirements on behalf of our authors.

Patient Consent for Case Reports and Letters to the Editor: Would you be concerned if you read in the pages of *Anesthesia & Analgesia* the detailed course of some medical misadventure that befell you or a family member? While we have never received a letter of complaint from a patient who recognized himself or herself in a case report, other journals in our specialty have. In our view, an author willing to disclose a case to the entire world ought to be willing to make the same disclosure to the patient. Starting in January 2009, *Anesthesia & Analgesia* requires that all Case Reports and Letters to the Editor that describe individual patient care be accompanied by a sentence stating that the patient, parent, or next of kin has agreed to publication of the case, or an explanation of why such approval from the patient, parent, or next of kin has not been obtained.

Author Role Disclosure: Did you ever wonder what all those authors listed on the manuscript actually did? We've had the same question! Starting in January, 2009, *Anesthesia & Analgesia* requires that each author explain his or her role in the manuscript. A condensed form of this disclosure will be printed with every manuscript. Our intent is to increase author accountability, as well as to reduce unearned authorship.

New Cover Letter: Our change to publish ahead of print requires that we obtain copyright assignment for all manuscripts as soon as possible. To accommodate this, *Anesthesia & Analgesia* now requires copyright transfer

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at the time of submission, conditional (of course) on the manuscript being accepted for publication. Following manuscript submission, the Editorial Office will notify each author about the guidelines for copyright transfer (again conditional on acceptance) and disclosure of the role in the publication and any conflicts of interest. These guidelines are also included in the Guide for Authors. Manuscripts will not be processed until the individual author approvals have been received. Authors do not have to sign the same piece of paper, which is typically quite difficult when authors are spread around the planet.

Clinical Trial Registration: For the past two years we have advised authors that “as of January 1, 2009, all clinical trials that involve investigational drugs or devices and are supported by a pharmaceutical firm or device manufacturer that began after January 1, 2008 must be registered prior to patient enrollment.”^{1,2} This policy has now gone into effect. However, new United States regulations (Public Law 110-85) require registration of *all* clinical trials of FDA approved drugs and devices. By limiting clinical trial registration to sponsored studies we had hoped to minimize the burden on investigators funded only by their academic departments. However, since the vast majority of clinical trials are for either drugs or devices approved by the FDA, Public Law 110-85 effectively precludes publication of any clinical trials without prior registration, at least for investigators in the United States. To ensure compliance, the Journal now requires that all

clinical trials (except those that involve retrospective review or incidental observation) be registered, either at www.clinicaltrials.gov (available to investigators worldwide) or a similar registry of the investigator’s choosing. Per the Journal’s policy, if the study was supported by the pharmaceutical or device industry, then registration must occur before patient enrollment.

The Open Mind: Occasionally we receive thoughtful opinion pieces from readers that are worth publishing, but do not have a proper home in the Journal. Often these are published as Letters to the Editor, unsolicited Editorials, or as Special Articles. This issue introduces a new forum, *The Open Mind*, where readers can submit thoughtful, scholarly, and well-referenced viewpoints to stimulate discussion. Like all content in the Journal, submissions to *The Open Mind* must pass the scrutiny of peer review. *The Open Mind* is not intended as a forum for rants, tirades, or complaints about being overworked and underpaid. Appearing in this issue of *Anesthesia & Analgesia* is our first *The Open Mind* commentary “Do No Harm” by Mark Zornow.³ *The Open Mind* is an experiment. You are invited to participate!

REFERENCES

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3. Zornow MH. Do No Harm. *Anesth Analg* 2009;108:374–5