

## The Vision and New Author Guidelines for Clinical Laboratory Science Journal

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## Objectives

- Summarize the new vision for CLS Journal
- Explain the purpose of the new guidelines for CLS journal
- List the requirements for submissions to each section of CLS Journal

## The Power of Positivity

- In order to carry a positive action we must here develop a positive vision.
  - Dalai Lama
- The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.
  - Confucius

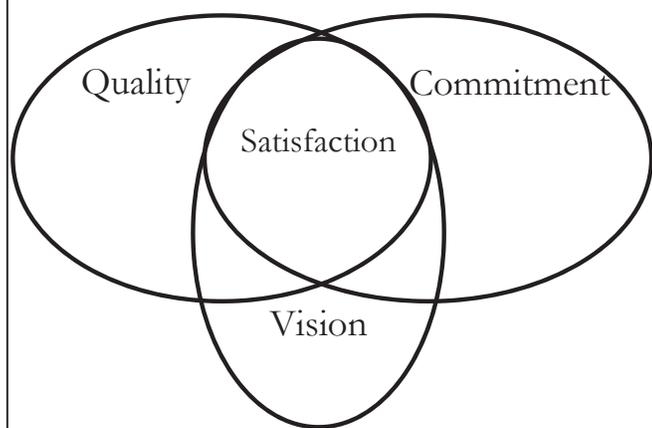


## The Power of Positivity

- Clinical Laboratory Science journal will provide the foundation of ASCLS's peer-reviewed scholarly work.
  - Starting today we are going to begin the path toward becoming the preeminent journal for clinical laboratory scientists
  - As one of the oldest journals we have a storied and important reputation in our field.



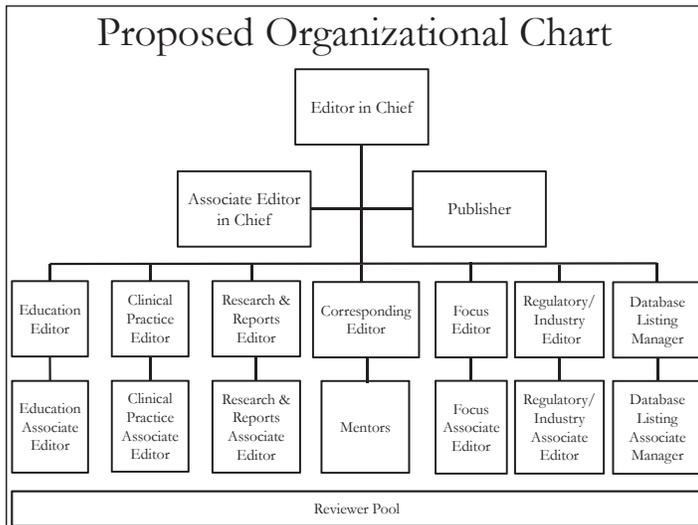
## Our Essential Triad



## Journal Reorganization

- Why is this necessary?
  - Adaptations to the current trends in the field are necessary
    - Create appropriate sections to foster journal interest
    - Move all scholarly work to a single entity
      - Consolidation of Clinical Laboratory Investigations into clinical practice
  - Additional areas and support are necessary to run an all volunteer editorial staff
    - Increase speed of review
    - Improve content areas
    - Reach out to clinical practitioners





### Commitment and Quality

- The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.
  - Vince Lombardi
- Important Team Members
  - Authors
  - Reviewers
  - Editors
  - Publisher
  - Mentors
- Commitment that only credentialed medical laboratory personnel will serve as leaders within the journal



### Commitment and Quality

- Author Responsibilities
  - Manuscripts will be submitted with the highest regard for intellectual and written quality to the best of one's ability.
    - This includes doing their best to conform to journal format
  - Submit revisions to manuscripts in an expeditious manner advising the editor of the need for additional time.
  - Conduct their work with the highest regard to ethical standards

### Commitment and Quality

- Reviewer Responsibilities
  - Review manuscripts with the highest regard for intellectual and written quality to the best of one's ability.
  - Complete a review with an adequate summary of the manuscript, constructive intellectual criticism, and include helpful comments for the editor and author.
  - Conduct their work with the highest regard to ethical standards, fairness, and confidentiality

### Review Structure

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Manuscript#: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Manuscript Conforms to Journal Specifications:  
Check Box certifying content was reviewed

Manuscript overall rating:  
Insert A (exceeds minimum requirements), B (meets minimum requirements), or C (unacceptable)

<input type="checkbox"/> Accuracy	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> Reader interest
<input type="checkbox"/> Composition	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> Relevance
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> Significance
<input type="checkbox"/> Originality		

Considerations for publication (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Advances knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Inferences are warranted
<input type="checkbox"/> Already adequately covered in literature	<input type="checkbox"/> More data necessary
<input type="checkbox"/> References accurate	<input type="checkbox"/> More suited for another journal.
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship accurate	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsworthy and/or timely
<input type="checkbox"/> Can be condensed	<input type="checkbox"/> Research question and relevance clear
<input type="checkbox"/> Data are clear	<input type="checkbox"/> Tables/figures can be eliminated
<input type="checkbox"/> Exposition clear for interested readers	<input type="checkbox"/> Useful "teaches"

Overall recommendations:

<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept if space available
<input type="checkbox"/> Accept with slight revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject, but consider resubmission
<input type="checkbox"/> Accept with major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject

Please write additional, confidential comments to the Editor here.

### Review Structure

Please write suggestions to the AUTHOR ONLY that are not CONFIDENTIAL below.  
Please do NOT comment here whether or not the manuscript should be accepted.

Reviewer's paragraph summary of the manuscript:

Reviewer's Major Concerns:

Reviewer's Minor Concerns:

Comments Regarding Grammar, Clarity, and Format:

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewing help you wish to acknowledge:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please electronically forward your comments and the completed review form to the e-mail address below:

Editors Contact info \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: Editor Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Commitment and Quality

- Associate Editor Responsibilities
  - Manage reviewers to ensure quantity, content expertise, and assure quality of review system
    - Recruit reviewers and potential authors
  - Apprentice with the current section editor
    - Maintain continuity
  - Make manuscript decisions in conjunction with the Section editor when needed
    - Assist in manuscript decisions during peak submission times to maintain turn around times

## Commitment and Quality

- Corresponding Editors Responsibilities
  - Assist authors with the development of a manuscript that meets the high standards of the journal for intellectual and written quality in the interest of the journal and authors
  - Provide mentorship, support, and encouragement to our most important people our authors
  - Provide input and guidance on the direction of the journal

## Commitment and Quality

- Editor Responsibilities
  - Manage the manuscript review process to the best of their ability
  - Work with Reviewers to encourage the most thorough and fair review of manuscripts in an expeditious manner
  - Make manuscript decisions in conjunction with the EIC when needed
  - Conduct their work with the highest regard to ethical standards

## Commitment and Quality

- Associate Editor in Chief
  - Assist Editor in Chief in the operations of the journal
  - Oversee external marketing communications
    - Twitter
    - Issue introduction and table of contents
    - Recruitment of authors and reviewers
    - Extend the reach of the journal to the profession
  - Apprentice with Editor in Chief

## Commitment and Quality

- Editor In Chief
  - Commitment to fairly and appropriately hold the journal accountable for its failures and successes
  - Supervise and mentor editors to ensure timeliness of manuscript review
  - Provide advice and support in editorial decisions
  - Review and approve each issue for publication in a timely manner
  - Provide the face of the journal to ASCLS and to the external community

## Commitment and Quality

- Editor In Chief
  - Maintain and develop appropriate reviewers for the journal in conjunction with the publisher
  - Search for authors and topics for publication
  - Maintain appropriate listings in databases and listings such as pub med and other professional indexes in conjunction with the publisher
  - Provide editorial support when needed or requested
  - Provide the vision for the journal in collaboration with ASCLS BOD, EVP, and Editors

## Commitment and Quality

- Publisher
  - Develop and publish a journal of the highest quality standard in a cost-effective, efficient manner
  - Provide a platform for manuscript flexibility that meets the needs of the author, society, and profession
    - Including proper length, appropriate functionality
    - Rich attachments
      - Color figures, videos, and other diverse medias as part of manuscripts
    - Develop a solution for manuscript discussion and informal commentary

## Commitment and Quality

- Publisher
  - Prepare and assemble each issue within a deadline to assure publication on the assigned date of the quarter
  - Ensuring the publication is listed and formatted properly for professional databases and indexes such as PubMed



## Measurables for Commitment and Quality

- Firm commitment to enhancing the review process
  - Manuscript decisions will be completed in 6 weeks or sooner.
    - Author revisions to Section Editor (4-6 weeks)
  - If accepted the process would take no longer than about 12 weeks (3mo)
  - Move toward an automated process for handling manuscripts where authors, editors, and publisher can track status in real time



## Measurables for Commitment and Quality

- Continued Listing in PubMed
  - Journal has been listed in PubMed
  - Will continue to be listed in PubMed once the journal is properly formatted in its electronic form
- Relisting and retroactive listing in PubMed
  - Completed at the earliest possible time frame consistent with regard to the journal's intellectual property and in conjunction with the BOD and EVP



## Measurables for Commitment and Quality

- Manuscript Reviews
  - A complete and appropriate review of all manuscripts will occur with a reasonable format
    - Completion of confidential coversheet
    - Summary of the manuscript
    - Critique of the manuscript (Major and Minor concerns)
    - Issues with grammar, syntax, format etc. (Major or Minor concerns)
  - Reviews that fail to reasonably live up to expectations will be discussed with the reviewer to outline expectations

## Goals

- Improve the quality of manuscript review and turn around time
  - Clearly defined reviews and speedy turn around times
- Eventually develop or adopt a manuscript management system that will electronically funnel manuscripts to reviewers, editors, and publisher seamlessly
- Work with Dr. David Fowler and Westminster Publishers to resolve any issues with our PubMed listing

## Vision for CLS Journal

- Systematic improvements to our web publishing
  - Rework our formatting that will improve manuscript submissions
    - The new standards for CLS Journal
      - Greater flexibility in word limit and eventually in figures, tables etc.
    - Conform to PubMed requirements



## Vision for CLS Journal

- Create ability to publish manuscripts containing color photographs, videos, and other multimedia files
  - Can fuel a larger social media presence
- Consider using the front of the journal for relevant and beautiful pictures to attract readership
  - This may become less relevant in electronic publishing but it can be special for an author whose image appears on the journal.

## Vision for CLS Journal

- Establish our journal brand to make it visible to clinical laboratory professionals
  - Target professionals in clinical areas to submit manuscripts regarding existing cases, issues, and other important publishable information
  - Target the importance of qualified professionals through the identification of errors and knowledge required to reduce laboratory test errors
  - Intentionally ask authors to consider publications in our journal

## Vision for CLS Journal

- Partner more effectively with scientific assemblies
  - Need a stronger relationship with chair and vice chairs to assist in improving manuscript submissions and emerging areas of clinical laboratory science
  - Particularly to foster clinical contacts



## Vision for CLS Journal

- Create a marketing plan to raise the visibility of the journal
  - Advertise journal table of contents and provide an introduction to each issue
  - Encourage and support access to our articles through the use of open access for those articles >1 year old
    - Promote increased citation rates and impact factor
  - Improve international visibility of the organization and journal
  - New database listing manager will assist in identifying and maintaining proper listings and revenue

## Vision for CLS Journal

- Create a self sustaining financial plan
  - Database sales and advertising revenue should help support the journal
    - The journal is scholarly and will not over advertise in any way that will compromise or give the appearance of compromising the quality of our work
  - Create a long range plan on increasing revenue each year to self-sustaining levels
    - This will take time to explore options and new ideas



## Vision for CLS Journal

- Technology usage
  - Development of a useful electronic process to manage reviewers, editors, and the publication process
  - Prevent errors, speed up process, allow authors to track manuscripts
  - Inclusion of color figures and videos
- Discussion Boards
  - Create a plan for article comments and discussions to increase interaction with scientists

## CLINICAL PRACTICE

### THE NEW CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE STANDARDS

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## Clinical Practice

- Structured abstract encouraged
  - 250 words or fewer
  - Background
  - Results/Findings
  - Significance
  - Conclusions
- Line below abstract
  - All abbreviations used
  - Three to five index terms (MeSH)

## Clinical Practice Body

- Introduction
  - Lead into article, background
  - Purpose or relevance of the article
- Materials and Methods
  - How data was ascertained or collected
  - Background on the quality of the data
- Results
  - What are the unique findings and data to support
- Discussion
  - Significance of the findings and why it is important to others

## Figures and Supplementary Materials

- Color figure resolutions
  - RGB TIFF images with a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch
- Video formats
  - Quick time or AVI 10MB or less
- Supplementary figures
  - Included as a separate file when needed to support the manuscript, some supportive data does not specifically need to be shown in the manuscript

## Vision for Clinical Practice Section

- Types of articles
- Emerging areas
- Encouraging more clinical practitioners
- International authors

## EDUCATION

### THE NEW CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE STANDARDS

## Vision for Education Section

- Articles will be more firmly based in theory with robust introductory literature reviews
- Emerging areas (e.g., interdisciplinary education) will be linked to effectiveness in practice
- Education practice recommendations will be based on evidence (less opinion and survey research)
- Articles will reflect measures of impact of education on health services delivery

## FOCUS

### THE NEW CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE STANDARDS

## Focus Section: Vision

- Thorough review of a topic related to aspects of medical laboratory science
  - Clinical
  - Biological
  - Administrative



## Focus Section: Composition

- Four articles
  - Title reflects the main theme of the articles
  - Each article carries its own title
- First article is a brief introduction to the series
  - Explain the importance of the focus topic
  - Brief summation of what the reader will encounter in the series
- Remaining three articles are in depth reviews representing different aspects of the main title

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## Focus Section: Authors

- One author of the series is named as guest editor
- The guest editor may choose to:
  - Write all four articles
  - Write the series with coauthors
  - Solicit authors to write articles within the series as independent author(s)

## Focus Section: Authors

- The guest editor is responsible for:
  - Collecting and reviewing all articles within the series
  - Submitting all articles within the series by the designated **due date**
    - 1/1 for the Spring issue
    - 4/1 for the Summer issue
    - 7/1 for the Fall issue
    - 10/1 for the Winter issue

## Focus Section: Authors

- Maintaining regular communication with the CLS Journal Focus Section Editor including:
  - Problems or questions that arise in the manuscript(s) preparation
  - Revisions to the manuscripts as warranted by the CLS Journal Focus Section Editor

## Focus Section: CE

- **Each** of the four articles in the series must include:
  - At least three measurable learning outcomes (e.g., explain, compare and contrast, describe, discuss, construct, etc.)
  - 2-6 multiple choice questions for a total of 20 multiple choice questions

## Focus Section: Submission

- A single electronic Microsoft Word cover letter for the series
- Four, separate, electronic files for the articles
  - Each article contains the following, with each section on a new page:
    - Title page
    - Abstract
    - Abbreviations and index terms
    - Three learning outcomes
    - Manuscript
    - Tables and figures with titles and legends
    - References
    - 20 multiple choice questions

## Focus Section: Submission

- All submissions are sent to the CLS Focus editor
- Edits and comments may be sent back to the guest editor for a timely turnaround
- CLS Focus editor sends to publisher

## RESEARCH AND REPORTS

### THE NEW CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE STANDARDS

Section Editor: Maribeth Flaws;  
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## Research and Reports Section

- *Clinical Laboratory Science* journal will provide the foundation of ASCLS's peer-reviewed scholarly work.
  - The preeminent journal for clinical laboratory scientists
  - As one of the oldest journals we have a storied and important reputation in our field.

## Research and Reports Section

- Original research
  - Research question, Hypothesis, Materials/Methods, Results, Conclusion/Discussion
- Basic research – related to MLS scope of practice
  - “Development of a Falling Drop Hemoglobin Method for Resource-Poor Settings”

## Research and Reports Section

- Applied Research
  - “Laboratory order errors before and after implementation of electronic health record”
  - “Design and Validation of a Survey Questionnaire for the Assessment of Physician Transfusion Medicine Knowledge”
- Qualitative Studies
  - “Emotional Intelligence in Medical Laboratory Science”

## Reasons for Rejection

- “...the originality of the findings, the superior quality of the work described, and the clarity of presentation.”
  - Addition to the body of knowledge – What's new?
  - Writing is clear and concise
  - Appropriate number of observations
  - Student-performed studies require faculty mentorship

## Future Vision for Research and Reports

- Increased submission of high quality studies
- Constant change in our profession
  - Evaluation and validation studies
  - Implementation and effect of change
- Analysis of databases
  - Hospital information system = tons of data, just ask a question
  - Other public databases, e.g. University HealthSystem Consortium

## CLS Needs Your Help

- We need your very best work in the form of manuscripts to be submitted to our journal!
  - CLS journal is getting ready to take steps to improve its impact in our field now is the time you can help us get rolling
- We need our strongest experts to agree to review manuscripts for our journal!
  - The peer review process needs you to make sure what we publish is of the highest quality.

## CLS Needs Your Help

- We need our members to mentor our younger scientists and those that have not published before to pass on the importance of publication
  - Scientific assemblies need to encourage scholarly publication
  - Corresponding Editors need to provide support to make manuscripts great
  - Recruitment of young scientists to co-publish with senior authors to build the amount of submissions

## Contact Information

- Editor in Chief , Interim Clinical Practice Editor
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## Questions

