

Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine (OJSM)

An Open Access Journal for Orthopaedic Sports Medicine, Arthroscopy and Knee Arthroplasty

A Vision and Publishing Plan for Collaborating Organizations

AOSSM Medical Publishing Group
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I. Overview

The vision for the *Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine (OJSM)*, An Open Access Journal for Orthopaedic Sports Medicine, Arthroscopy and Knee Arthroplasty, (www.ojasm.org) is to create the premier open access journal in orthopaedic sports medicine that combines the publishing interests of authors and researchers, the organizational interests of the related professional organizations and the AOSSM's experience and reputation as a leading publisher in the field, world-wide. Editorially, the journal will publish original work in the fields of:

- Orthopaedic Sports Medicine, including surgical treatment and non-surgical treatment of orthopaedic sports injuries
- Arthroscopic Surgery (Shoulder/Elbow/Wrist/Hip/Knee/Ankle/Foot)
- Relevant translational research
- Sports Traumatology/Epidemiology
- Knee Arthroplasty

The OJSM will also publish relevant systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

The intent is for the OJSM to complement existing orthopaedic sports medicine publications. Development of this new approach provides an open-access publishing platform for quality manuscripts as an alternative to conventional subscription-based orthopaedic sports medicine journals. (See introductory editorial attachment 1)

II. OJSM: Constituents and Imperatives

The goal of the OJSM is to provide authors with a publishing platform where they enjoy the broadest possible readership within the field, enhanced by association with the AOSSM Medical Publishing Group and other distinguished orthopaedic organizations internationally. In addition, the OJSM provides professional organizations with the opportunity to participate in the production of a highly reputable publication that transcends traditional organizational, national and geographic boundaries. The following summarizes those interests of AOSSM, other collaborating professional organizations and authors/researchers:

AOSSM

The AOSSM Medical Publishing Group is a leading sports medicine publisher with two successful publications, *The American Journal of Sports Medicine (AJSM)* and *Sports Health: A Multidisciplinary Approach (Sports Health)*. AJSM's publication history since 1972 and its high impact factor in sports medicine and orthopaedics provide the Society with exceptional visibility and an excellent reputation. *Sports Health* has given the AOSSM the experience of launching a new, respected peer-reviewed publication in collaboration with the broader orthopaedic and sports medicine communities. AOSSM owns the OJSM, is underwriting the start-up costs and is utilizing SAGE Publications to publish it.

Collaborating Professional Organizations

There are many orthopaedic organizations throughout the world that are directly or indirectly related to the topic areas identified for the OJSM.

Some of these organizations have publications of their own, but many do not. Most authors – current or potential – have professional affiliations with one or more of these organizations. For these groups – and their constituents – the OJSM should not be viewed as a competitive or exclusive publication but, rather, an extension and complement to their current organizational interests. OJSM is structured to offer partnering professional organizations the following benefits:

- **Participation** in a major international undertaking
 - **Increased exposure** in the international professional community
- Organizational **recognition**
 - Regional and/or National
 - Professional or Specialty
- **Elevated recognition** for the Leadership
- **Enhanced** program/activities
 - Added benefit for members
- **A Mechanism** through which they can actively participate in the development of the profession and the promotion of the open access publication model.

The AOSSM Medical Publishing Group's primary interest (and responsibility) is to structure this new publication so that it follows in the tradition of *The American Journal of Sports Medicine* and *Sports Health: A Multidisciplinary Approach* by publishing quality, peer-reviewed content and establishing the highest standard within its respective editorial niche while utilizing a financially viable business model.

Recognizing and accommodating authors' publication interests and organizations' collaboration interests will add to the initial success of the OJSM.

Authors/Researchers

Current orthopaedic sports medicine journals, including AJSM, cannot accommodate the volume of good-quality orthopaedic sports medicine research being produced throughout the world each year. Members of organizations that do not currently have their own English-language journals need a place to publish their research where it will reach an international readership.

The sports medicine market is robust. In 2011, over 12,000 articles were published in journals listed in the Sports Medicine category by Thomson-Reuters. There is mounting evidence that, while the traditional subscription-based journals that accommodate the bulk of articles in orthopaedic sports medicine continue to thrive, the new breed of open access journals is enjoying rapid growth. BioMed Central received 42,000 submissions in 2011, up from 35,000 in 2010; in 2006, the publisher had 15,000 submissions across all of its journals. The Public Library of Science has published over 30,000 articles across its open access journals.

SAGE's research on the number of articles published in the open access orthopaedic and sports medicine journals already on the market shows 937 articles published since 2007, with rapid

acceleration (from 57 in 2007 to 249 in 2011, and approached 450 by the end of 2012). Although other journals do exist in this category, we feel that OJSM, with the support of the AOSSM and its potential international partners, has the opportunity to become known as the quality leader in the field.

In view of the flood of papers that are coming out of the expanding scientific culture, this is a propitious time to launch a new vehicle that can serve the rapidly growing community of authors worldwide. In areas of the world where the profession is still emerging, many authors have inadequate options to publish their work because of their limited publishing experience and the highly selective standards of the top Impact Factor journals. Some of these geographic areas have tremendous potential for supplying papers to the OJSM. This augurs well for a journal under the auspices of AOSSM and other prominent professional organizations that reach out to authors globally, either directly or through their primary regional or national societies.

The OJSM will afford authors the following benefits:

- ***A Respected*** professional forum for presenting their research
- ***Fair and fast peer review***
- ***An Accessible*** publishing platform
- ***The Broadest*** readership possible
- ***Universal free access*** by readers
- Professional ***recognition***
- ***An Alternative option*** to traditional publication
- ***Affordable open access article processing charges (APCs)***
- ***Timely*** publication
- ***Rapid searchability in PubMed Central***

III. Collaboration

The following parameters are structured to reinforce the previously mentioned benefits to authors and organizations through their participation in the OJSM. The objective is to facilitate broad submission and publication of orthopaedic sports medicine research, as well as active participation by the related professional organizations. The potential benefits are divided into 4 areas: Editorial Participation, Manuscript Processing Charges, Organizational Recognition and Revenue Sharing.

Editorial Participation

Editorial participation is structured to provide appropriate oversight of the peer review process, which is reflective of the various constituencies engaged in the OJSM. The following outlines an editorial structure that encourages and recognizes participation:

- Editor-in-Chief (EIC): ***Bruce Reider, MD***, has been selected by the AOSSM Medical Publishing Group Board of Trustees as the initial EIC.
- Associate Editors: OJSM currently has two associate editors: ***Allen F. Anderson, MD***, and ***Mark E. Steiner, MD***. Associate editors are selected by the EIC, with the total number determined by a number of factors, including the overall manuscript flow, level of participation in different geographic areas and formal cascading arrangements between OJSM and other organizational

publications. The EIC has the flexibility of appointing additional associate editors to balance the workload as needed.

- **Editorial Representatives:** Editorial representatives are members of the OJSM editorial board nominated by collaborating organizations to represent their organization on the OJSM editorial board. Each participating organization will nominate 3 individuals, and the EIC will select one of the individuals to serve in this capacity.
- **Editorial Board:** OJSM is supported by an impressive array of more than 115 accomplished researchers and authors from throughout the international orthopaedic sports medicine community, representing countries from all 6 major continents.
- **Reviewers:** Collaborating organizations will be solicited to recommend additional reviewers to help with the peer review process. This endeavor also provides an opportunity for individuals with little prior exposure to medical publishing to gain experience and insight.

Attachment 2 has a listing of the current OJSM editorial board.

Article Processing Charge (APC)

The Article Processing Charge (APC) is tiered to be both competitive with market rates and to provide added incentive and benefit for author and organizational participation.

- The APC for the OJSM (charged only upon acceptance) would be **\$1,000**. This rate (which may be viewed as an introductory rate) is lower than *PlosOne* (\$1,350), *BioMed Central* (\$1,870), and *Open Access Journal of Sports Medicine* (Dove Press, \$1,865).
- The APC for authors who are members of official OJSM collaborating organizations is set at a 25% discount, or **\$750**.
- Collaborating organizations that elected to directly pay the APCs for articles - e.g., submissions by their members and select manuscripts from their annual meetings - would receive a 35% discount with the fee being **\$650**.
- Authors of cascaded manuscripts from the journals of collaborating organizations would be charged a discounted rate of **\$650**, 35% off the base rate, provided the reviews are available to the OJSM editors.
- APCs for authors from the World Bank list of low-income and lower-middle income countries would be waived.

Organizations that officially collaborate with the OJSM provide their members with a benefit by reducing the cost of publication. At the same time, given the multiplicity of professional organizations in the field, it is highly likely that active researchers will be members of one or more collaborating organizations, thereby minimizing the possibility that they will be paying top-tiered fees to get published. The expectation is that the added financial incentive will be offset by added volume.

Organizational Recognition

AOSSM hopes that potential collaborating organizations and, by extension, their members who are authors, view collaboration in the OJSM as consistent with their professional interests. Collaborating organizations would enjoy the following benefits:

- The ability to nominate OJSM Editorial Representatives.
- The right to list the OJSM as “An Official Journal of [Named Society]”.
- Inclusion of their society’s name and logo on the OJSM site, along with an organizational profile.
- A link from the OJSM site to their society’s web site.
- Papers presented at collaborators’ meetings would have a “Presented at” designation, along with the society’s name and logo.
- The ability to post society announcements and links (with restriction) on a special collaborators’ section of the OJSM site.

Revenue Sharing

AOSSM will pay a 5% commission to each participating organization each time that a member publishes (as a corresponding author) with the open access journal. If a corresponding author belongs to more than one participating organization, then the commission will be divided equally among those organizations. This will provide organizations with a modest financial return for their participation without needing to assume any financial risk. The commission also provides a way to recognize – and reward – those organizations that successfully encourage active participation in the Journal.

IV. Editorial and Publication Processes

The editorial objective of the OJSM is to publish research with high-quality editorial standards, analogous to AJSM, but with an expanded scope of content. The Society’s commitment to quality peer review and editorial independence is especially important for an open access publication like the OJSM in which AOSSM seeks the participation of the community of authors and the support of professional organizations. This level of discrimination will be important for both establishing the identity and stature of the OJSM. At the same time, online-only publication will remove artificial limits to the number of quality papers that can be accepted.

Submission Process

There are two possible routes for submission:

1. Authors may submit papers directly on the manuscript management website. Papers are sent for review by the editors and a final decision is made by the EIC with input from Associate and Assistant Editors.
2. Papers may be referred (“cascaded”) from AJSM, *Sports Health* and other journals published by the OJSM collaborating organizations. In this case, papers that cannot be accommodated in the cascading journal but are deemed to be of publishable quality may be invited to publish in OJSM. The final decision is made by the OJSM EIC. Papers that are published or accepted for publication in the referring journal are not eligible for cascading to OJSM.

The publication decision is made by the OJSM EIC upon the soundness of the research. There would be no limitation to the number of papers or pages that can be accepted.

There is no fee associated with submission, but there is a publication fee (the “Article Processing Charge”) for accepted manuscripts. As noted above, partner societies may subsidize in part or in full the cost of publication for their members who have papers accepted. Papers are published under the Creative Commons License, through which authors retain copyright of their work.

Publication Process

Accepted papers are copy edited and published online on a rolling basis with the date of publication and DOI recorded, and also posted to PubMed Central. Access to the full published version is universally open, without a fee to readers.

V. Timeline

The journal site is now live at www.ojasm.org, which provides the public information about the Journal, its aims and scope and manuscript submission information. The online manuscript submission site <http://submit.ojasm.org> will be operational in early March. We anticipate the first articles to be published by the spring of 2013.

VI. Conclusion

AOSSM is in a fortunate, strong position to launch a new publication that builds upon its reputation and experience as a prominent publisher of high-quality, peer-reviewed science in orthopaedic sports medicine. The enthusiastic support from an impressive array of international authors and researchers who serve on the editorial board further affirms the interest and opportunity for this new publishing paradigm. In addition, the Society has the benefit of:

- A strong flow of quality manuscripts;
- A prolific (and in some regions emerging) international profession in which a large quantity of other papers are produced annually that would be strong candidates for the OJSM;
- A strong relationship and reputation with the top authors in the field;
- A reputation as a successful collaborator with sister organizations, world-wide.

Potential collaborating organizations also add to the publication and accrue benefit through:

- Active participation in a highly visible publication that will influence the profession, world-wide;
- Provision of a highly reputable publishing avenue for their members;
- Enhanced programs and benefits for their members;
- Added revenue stream for their organizations;
- Identification with the open access publication model.

The Society also benefits from a strong relationship with its publisher that provides the level of collaboration and accomplishment on which an endeavor of this magnitude can be successfully accomplished. More importantly, OJSM provides the Society and its partners with experience utilizing a new, emerging publishing model that may continue to assume an increasingly prominent role in medical publishing.

The editors and the leadership of OJSM look forward to collaborating with organizations from around the world in this exciting undertaking.

Open Access for Orthopaedic Sports Medicine

Embarking on a journey. Laying the foundation of a house. Writing the first chapter of a novel. Crafting a constitution. Initiating a new endeavor is an energizing, exhilarating, and slightly intimidating experience. With the publication of this editorial, the *Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine (OJSM)* announces its presence and its commitment to providing an exciting new publishing option in the field of orthopaedic sports medicine.

Our subtitle, *An Open Access Journal for Orthopaedic Sports Medicine, Arthroscopy and Knee Arthroplasty*, concisely proclaims our publication model and programmatic scope. The initial phrase, *open access*, is the key to understanding the essence of this new undertaking. It is a phrase that may be unfamiliar to many orthopaedic surgeons, so I will elaborate further on this terse description.

Open access offers an intriguing alternative to the still robust subscription model of journal publication. In the traditional system, a fee is charged for full access to journal content, either in the form of an annual subscription to the journal or through the online purchase of individual articles. Subscriptions may be held by individual readers or by institutions such as universities, hospitals, or professional consortia that share the content among many stakeholders.

In the open access model, no such toll is required to gain admittance to the complete content of each article. Any interested individual can read and benefit from each and every published work. Two major forms of open access exist. The first has been designated *green open access*. In this variant, articles published in traditional subscription journals become freely available to the public at a certain interval following initial publication, most commonly 12 months. *OJSM* is an example of the second major form, which is commonly termed *gold open access*. A gold open access journal makes its full content freely available to all readers immediately upon publication.

The concept of open access was first proposed several decades ago, but it needed the advent of the modern Internet to realize its full potential. The ubiquity of web access means that a journal can achieve widespread dissemination without print publication. The option of electronic-only publication has substantially lowered production costs and made open access economically feasible. Although the first open access journals were in the humanities, recent growth in the number of open access journals has been fueled by a burgeoning interest in the scientific, technological, and medical fields. It is estimated that 340,000 articles

were published in gold open access journals in 2011.⁵ Of these, 120,000 were in the field of biomedicine, a dramatic increase from 7400 at the close of the 20th century. All told, about 11% of the 1.99 million articles indexed in Scopus in 2011 appeared in gold open access journals. An increasing number of universities and funding agencies are encouraging or mandating open access publication of articles produced by their faculty member or grantees.

Although this may be news to many orthopaedic surgeons, *OJSM* is not the first open access journal to appear in orthopaedic sports medicine. However, our aspiration is to be the most respected, authoritative, and widely accessed journal in the field. We aim to bring to *OJSM* the same reputation for scientific rigor and thorough peer review for which our subscription journals are known. *OJSM* intends to appeal to a truly international constituency of authors and readers. Thus, although the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine has provided our initial support, we are actively seeking to enlist similar societies from around the world to become partners in this undertaking. This is a major reason that we have included knee arthroplasty in our subject domain, since this topic is an interest of many orthopaedic sport medicine societies.

As an open access journal, *OJSM* offers a number of features designed to appeal to potential contributors. *OJSM's* gold open access status fulfills the requirements of institutions and funding agencies that require open access publication. Article production is fast and efficient. Electronic-only publication frees our journal from the constraint of discrete issues, so that articles are published individually as soon as proofs have been finalized. Eschewing print also removes restrictions on article length or color illustrations and facilitates the inclusion of full data sets and video features. Upon publication, every article becomes immediately available to an unlimited worldwide readership. Studies have shown that this universal availability is translated into a greater number of article downloads^{2,4} and possibly more citations as well.^{1,2,4} *OJSM* intends that its quality standards will encourage the preferential downloading, reading, and citation of articles that appear on its pages.

Although online open access is a relatively low-cost publication model, it is, of course, still subject to the laws of economics. While some open access journals are financed by grants and subsidies, most offset their expenses through article processing fees that are charged if an article is accepted. There is some potential for abuse of this system by low-quality "predatory" publishers,³ so the presence of an editorial board intent on maintaining a high level of scientific rigor is important to ensuring the excellence of an open access journal. *OJSM* has set its fees at a moderate level in comparison to current standards⁵ and further

lowers these charges for authors who are members of sponsoring societies. In addition, article processing fees will be fully waived for authors from countries listed as low-income or lower-middle income by the World Bank.


As implied in our subtitle, *OJSM* will comprise an extensive variety of works. We encourage authors to submit original research, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses in the fields of orthopaedic sports medicine, including both surgical and nonsurgical treatment of sports injuries; arthroscopic surgery; sports epidemiology; knee arthroplasty; and clinically relevant foundational and translational research. Appropriate articles may now be submitted for peer review online (<http://submit.ojasm.org>). Come join us in this exciting new opportunity.



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Editor-in-Chief



Allen F. Anderson, MD
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Mark E. Steiner, MD
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