

Journal of Physician Assistant Education Report

September 2017

Submitted by Libby Alesbury

Name of Council: JPAE Editorial Advisory Board

Council Charge: The JPAE Editorial Advisory Board is dedicated to publishing scholarly manuscripts germane to PA education and providing a forum for the sharing of ideas and innovations that will enhance the education of PA students.

Key Deliverables

- Published four issues of the *Journal of Physician Assistant Education* (JPAE) over the past year with an increased emphasis on sound research and higher quality.
- Published a special anniversary issue comprised of invited articles from specific authors as well as selected articles from an open call. The issue also included four guest editorials from Rep. Karen Bass, AAMC CEO Darrell Kirch, PAEA President Bill Kohlhepp, and former AAPA VP Stephen Crane. Also included original artwork/photography as the result of a contest for a cover image. (Runners-up were used inside the issue.) The Editorial Board and journal staff expect this special issue to become a keepsake publication for most PA educators.
- PAEA is also publishing online a 50th anniversary e-book with JAAPA, featuring anniversary articles from both publications.
- In 2017, JPAE published two white papers/articles from PAEA on topics of major interest to the Association: one entitled “Entrustable Professional Activities: A New Direction for PA Education?” (March issue) and the other “Moving Toward Outcomes-Based Accreditation” written by the PAEA Accreditation Task Force Board (December issue).
- Research/publishing sessions at Education Forum: In an ongoing effort to promote increased scholarly research in the PA education community, the journal’s Editorial Advisory Board, along with PAEA’s Research team, is holding two special “mentoring” sessions at the Forum. These sessions are geared toward those who are interested in stepping up their research efforts and/or publishing their first article, offering them an opportunity to talk one-on-one with an experienced researcher/author and receive advice specifically tailored to them and their project.
- Impact Factor – After analyzing the journal’s rate of citation, Wolters Kluwer deemed that JPAE was a good candidate and applied for an impact factor, a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited during a

particular year. A high impact factor lends prestige and credibility to an academic journal. This process takes two years, so we anticipate that, if granted, the first impact factor will be available in June 2019.

Highlights

- Brought on an additional JPAE Editorial Board member, Kris Maday, to handle promoting the journal via social media and to help us take advantage of the bells and whistles available through our Wolters Kluwer website.
- Used the publish-ahead-of-print feature to get articles out online as soon as they have been finalized and laid out. In particular, this option was used for the two white paper articles written by past/current PAEA Board members and staff.
- Research submissions increase: The number of research manuscripts both submitted and accepted for publication continued to rise over the past year. The amount of time from acceptance to publication still runs approximately one year.
- Increase in readership:
 - Page views for JPAE are up 12.4% over the same time last year.
 - The most popular search term is “admissions,” followed by “PANCE.”
 - According to PAEA’s Faculty & Directors Survey, 82% of members said they found the journal to be useful.