

# Facts and Comparisons: Journal Updates and Performance Indicators

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In January 2006, the *CJHP* Editorial Board, as well as members of CSHP Council and staff, selected individuals from the Society's general membership (including students), and representatives of both the CSHP Research and Education Foundation and the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy participated in a day-long strategic business-planning session for the *CJHP*. In conjunction with an environmental scan, for which we received input from other stakeholders, this planning session culminated in a 6-year strategic business plan with the purpose of serving as both a compass and a road map for the Journal.<sup>1</sup>

Four years later, in January 2010, the *CJHP* Editorial Board held another strategic planning meeting with the CSHP Executive and staff members to review progress and discuss a long-term vision for the Journal.

## PROGRESS

During the past few years, several visible enhancements have been made to the Journal:

- April 2007: Launch of *CJHP*'s Web-based submission and peer review system, hosted by eJournalPress (eJPress) (<http://CJHP.msubmit.net/cgi-bin/main.plex>).
- January 2008: Increase in annual number of issues from 5 to 6.
- April 2009: Launch of *CJHP*'s online hosting platform ([www.CJHP-online.ca/index.php/CJHP](http://www.CJHP-online.ca/index.php/CJHP)), which uses the Public Knowledge Project's publishing system, Open Journal Systems, with website design, article uploading, and technical support provided by Multimed Inc. *CJHP Online* is intuitive, easy to use, and fully searchable. A complete archive of issues from 2003 to April 2009 was available on launch day, and the issues for 2000 to 2002 were added by the end of May 2009. The *CJHP* Editorial Board has received much positive feedback about the online *CJHP*. In recognition of the need to

continue promoting the *CJHP* to its potential readership nationally and worldwide, CSHP Council agreed to extend the free-access trial of all *CJHP* material available online (current volume and archives) for calendar year 2010.



- March 2010: Archiving of *CJHP* in PubMed Central ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/1115/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/1115/)). We received the exciting news in fall 2009 that the *CJHP* had been successful in its application to be archived in PubMed Central, the US National Institutes of Health's free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature! As of March 2010, all issues from January–February 2009 to the present are listed in PubMed Central. Editorials, Reports from the Presidential Team, and Society News items are available immediately, and scientific content becomes available 24 months after publication.

The members of the Editorial Board would also like to share with you, our readers, some of the *CJHP*'s objective performance indicators. Table 1 summarizes data for articles published from 2005/2006 to 2009/2010. With the launch of eJPress, it became possible to track various statistics for submitted manuscripts, and Table 2 summarizes, for the period 2007 to 2010, data for the peer-reviewed articles in *CJHP*, specifically number of submitted manuscripts, acceptance rate, and average turnaround times from submission to initial decision and from submission to final decision. Both of these tables demonstrate that the performance of the Journal is progressing in a positive direction.

**Table 1. Five-Year Summary of *CJHP* Publication Statistics**

	Year*; No. of Articles or Pages				
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
<b>No. of articles by section</b>					
Articles†	13	17	17	24	30
Case Reports	3	3	5	1	3
Pharmacy Practice	6	2	5	5	8
Practice Spotlight‡	NA	4	5	6	6
Drug Information Notes	0	0	0	0	1
Safe Medication Practices	NA	5	5	6	3
Point Counterpoint‡	NA	2	5	6	6
Books and Other Media (reviews)	6	0	4	14	13
Letters	7	5	6	7	7
Society News§	NA	NA	4	2	1
<b>No. of pages, by type of material</b>					
Advertising	99	87	52	109	74
Articles and other content	220	273	340	408¶	462¶
Total	319	360	392	517	536
Ad ratio**	0.31	0.24	0.13	0.21	0.14
<b>Issues published</b>	5	5	5	6	6

NA = not applicable.

\*Twelve-month period from July 1 to June 30.

†Research articles and reviews.

‡Section initiated in 2006/2007.

§Full articles only (the publication of full articles in the Society News section was initiated in 2006/2007).

¶Does not include supplementary "online-only" pages.

\*\*Number of advertising pages ÷ total number of pages published.

## LONG-TERM VISION

Much of the 2010 strategic planning meeting was spent discussing our long-term vision for the *CJHP*. We began by trying to define where the *CJHP* is going and to identify how we can best make the transition. We discussed the number of issues to be published each year, the potential move to permanent open access and "online-only" publication, and possible implications for expenses and revenues.

Regarding open access, both PubMed Central and the National Institutes of Health strongly encourage journals to make their content accessible to the public (via PubMed Central), no later than 12 months after publication (<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>), but preferably immediately. Most researchers and authors prefer to have their work available in open access format right away, so that they can reach a global audience. It is argued that scholarship builds on the work that precedes it and that robust research and scientific development depend on readily accessible sources that allow for the development of new ideas. In addition, scientific bodies and funding organizations are now mandating (or encouraging) all funding recipients to make their papers freely accessible immediately after publication. Although concern was raised during our strategic planning session that the *CJHP* is viewed as a tangible benefit of CSHP membership and that making it "freely available" might diminish this

benefit, the Editorial Board's response to this concern focused on the immediate and positive impact that open access would have on the quality of the Journal (by encouraging more and better submissions and by allowing the Journal to have a more immediate global impact). Providing CSHP members with a better-quality Journal would be a positive move, even if the Journal itself would no longer be an exclusive member benefit.

Regarding the availability of the Journal in "online-only" form, nearly half of respondents to the 2009 CSHP Membership Survey indicated that they would prefer to receive the *CJHP* in this format exclusively. Although the march of technological advancement makes me believe that eventually all journals will be online only, most journals today are available both in print and online. The most likely reasons for continuing to publish a print version are the anticipated loss of advertising revenue and perhaps a perceived loss of prestige with online-only publication.

Because of uncertainty about the impact of open access and online-only publication on *CJHP* revenues, CSHP Council, during its 2010 Midterm Meeting, postponed a decision on the *CJHP* Editorial Board's recommendations that the full texts of all *CJHP* articles continue to be open access immediately and permanently and that the *CJHP* be published online only (beginning in January 2011). These recommendations will be revisited when Council meets

**Table 2. Other CJHP Performance Indicators**

Manuscript Type*	No. of Manuscripts Submitted	Acceptance Rate (%)	Decision Interval (Days)	
			Receipt to First Decision	Receipt to Final Decision
<b>2007 (April to December)</b>				
Case Reports	4	75	57.0	94.5
Drug Information Notes	1	0	108.0	148.0
Pharmacy Practice	5	60	85.6	128.6
Research reports	23	65	102.9	213.7
<b>Calendar year 2008</b>				
Case Reports	2	100	4.0	55.0
Drug Information Notes	1	0	46.0	46.0
Literature reviews	5	100	74.2	204.0
Pharmacy Practice	7	57	78.7	142.1
Research reports	40	73	79.8	143.4
<b>Calendar year 2009</b>				
Case Reports	7	83	54.0	133.8
Drug Information Notes	1	100	54.0	106.0
Literature reviews	2	50	59.5	NA
Pharmacy Practice	14	57	64.2	102.3
Research reports	29	62	64.5	102.3
<b>2010 (January to April)</b>				
Case Reports	1	NA	NA	NA
Literature reviews	2	NA	54.0	NA
Pharmacy Practice	5	NA	NA	NA
Research reports	7	NA	57.7	NA

NA = not available.

\*Does not include manuscript types that typically do not undergo external peer review (book reviews, editorials, letters to the editor, submissions for Point Counterpoint column, and articles in Practice Spotlight section).

before the 2010 Summer Educational Sessions. The *CJHP* Associate Editors and I remain hopeful that the *CJHP*'s vision of being "an academic journal that focuses on how Canadian pharmacists optimize safe and effective drug use in patients" will be fully realized and that the Journal will be freely accessible to readers around the world in the near future!

**Reference**

1. Ensom MHH. A motivational letter [editorial]. *Can J Hosp Pharm* 2006;59(2):61-62.

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