

Editorial

Obesity Science & Practice

Researchers and clinicians working in the area of obesity have seen the staggering rise in the numbers of world citizens now impacted by obesity and its related comorbidities. Many of the projections on the increase in obesity throughout the world from 20 or 30 years ago, and which may have been seen as alarmist at the time, have been met, if not exceeded. For many, if not most in the medical field, obesity is recognized as the medical disease and world public health issue it truly is. Some of this is likely the result of the tireless work of population health researchers, scholarly societies and policy experts. Researchers who have dedicated their careers to identifying the genetic, biochemical, physiological and behavioral contributions to obesity also have played a vital role in our understanding of the disease. At the same time, clinicians from a countless number of medical disciplines now work with patients on a daily basis, helping them control their weight and its impact on their health. The growth in the number of professionals now working in obesity provides a sense of optimism for the future.

As the field of obesity evolves, so to must the manner in which scientific observations and treatment advances are communicated to multidisciplinary professionals from around the globe who work in the area. Investigators are obligated to publish their work and often spend a great deal of time contemplating the best home for their manuscripts. In some cases, findings transcend the field and end up in the highest impact journals in the world. More often than not, papers are submitted to the small number of journals that are dedicated to the field of obesity. Unfortunately, given the relatively small number of these journals, and the ever growing number of researchers in the area looking to publish their findings, competition for publication is fierce. One could argue that this competition is a good thing. However, the reality is that the number of journal pages currently dedicated to articles in the area of obesity is simply not enough for the growing field. As a result, many potentially impactful papers spend months, if not years, in the review process at journal after journal. Others may go unpublished all together. This is where *Obesity Science & Practice* comes in. Wiley, the publisher of the journal, has an established commitment to the science of obesity, as evidenced by the four journals they currently produce together with The Obesity Society and World Obesity: *Clinical Obesity*, *Obesity*, *Obesity Reviews*, and *Pediatric Obesity*. They believe, as do I, that the time has come for a high quality, open access journal in the field, which will work in collaboration with these four journals. Authors who submit high-quality papers, that are not accepted in *Clinical Obesity*, *Obesity*, *Obesity Reviews*, and *Pediatric Obesity* due to pressure of space, or misalignment with the aims and scope of the journal, will be given the opportunity to have their papers, and peer-review comments, sent directly to *Obesity Science & Practice*, where they will be evaluated internally. Papers of sufficient quality may be published following appropriate revision in response to the reviewers' comments; others will be sent to the Editorial Board of *Obesity Science & Practice* for further evaluation. Authors also have the opportunity to submit papers to the journal directly. These manuscripts will be carefully evaluated by the Editorial Board and external reviewers, as is traditionally done. The process for both categories of papers—those directed to the journal from the four other obesity journals published by Wiley or those submitted directly to *Obesity Science & Practice*—is designed to have high quality papers published in the journal in a relatively short period of time and to move the science of obesity forward.

Another goal is to publish a journal where we consider the needs of the authors while respecting what the reviewers require. Journals that are produced in print and online are bound by page budgets, resulting in limits in the number and length of papers that are published. As an open access online-only journal, *Obesity Science & Practice* is freed from this constraint. Shorter papers are read more often and cited more, and, thus, are encouraged. At the same time, papers describing novel theories, mechanisms, or treatment approaches often require more space to fully explain the new contributions to the field, and this need will be accommodated. Quality will be prioritized. Over the last 19 years, I have had the good fortune to be mentored by, and work with, some of the most talented and well regarded clinical researchers in the world. They have taught me the importance of quality throughout the scientific process—from the rationale and design of the study to putting the last obsessive touches on a manuscript. *Obesity Science & Practice* will strive to meet those standards.

I am honored to have been asked to serve as the inaugural Editor-in-Chief of *Obesity Science & Practice*. I'm excited to be joined on the Editorial Board by many of the world's most recognized authorities in the etiology and treatment of obesity. We will work together to produce a high quality publication that will represent the best of open access publishing. Our field deserves that, as do the women and men, girls and boys affected by obesity.

Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

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