



Navigating the future of academic publishing: mission and vision of "The Evidence"

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Abstract

In an era, fraught with healthcare misinformation and disinformation that frequently proliferates, the necessity for scientific, peer-reviewed journals like "The Evidence" is imperative. This journal aims to serve as a repository for rigorously vetted, evidence-based primary, secondary, and tertiary research. While offering a wide array of research articles, "The Evidence" specializes in fields that are commonly misunderstood or misrepresented. Whether examining the efficacy of a novel medication, the environmental consequences of a technology, or the sociological impact of a policy, the journal focuses on delivering critically appraised, current evidence to validate or challenge prevalent claims. The inception of "The Evidence" signifies not merely the addition of another academic journal but a pledge to maintain research integrity and democratize access to evidence-based knowledge.

Keywords: Peer-reviewed journal, Open-access model, Continuous publication model, Research integrity, Evidence-based medicine, Evidence-based research, Empirical, Systematic review



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Evidence in Context

The Evidence is a scientific, peer-reviewed journal introduced in response to widespread healthcare misinformation and disinformation. The journal aims to provide rigorously vetted, evidence-based research, focusing especially on fields frequently misunderstood or misrepresented. While many journals contribute to scientific understanding, "The Evidence" seeks to address areas where others fall short, such as bridging the gap between academia and the public, ensuring high-quality evidence, and emphasizing community engagement.

To view Article



Editorial

"The Evidence" aims to establish a new benchmark in academic publishing through key unique features:

Unrestricted Access with Integrity: Commitment to an open-access model is maintained, ensuring rigorous peer-review processes and ethical standards.

Targeted Specialization: The journal functions as a repository for rigorously vetted, current research in specific domains commonly misunderstood or misrepresented.

Inclusive Public Engagement: The mission encompasses rendering academic research comprehensible and accessible to a wider audience via simple language and interactive media.

Maintaining Integrity in Open Access

A significant barrier to disseminating high-quality research is the paywall. "The Evidence" commits to an open-access model, ensuring that verified information is accessible to all, thereby democratizing knowledge. Upholding integrity while providing open access is a complex yet achievable aim for "The Evidence." Here are some strategies that can be employed:

Editorial Policy: "The Evidence" endorses and applies the standards and recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) [1], the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) [2], and the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) [3] to ensure rigorous review and publication processes. The structured Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT) will be followed for greater transparency and recognition of author contributions[4].

Rigorous Peer Review: A stringent peer-review process serves as the first line of defense in maintaining the journal's integrity. "The Evidence" employs a double-blind peer-review system, ensuring anonymity for both authors and reviewers, thus minimizing bias.

Transparency: Transparency in the review and publication process aids in maintaining integrity. This includes publishing peer-review criteria, disclosing conflicts of interest, and revealing research funding sources.

Quality over Quantity: A selective publication strategy will uphold the journal's reputation. Although open access can result in a high volume of submissions, "The Evidence" places a strong emphasis on quality.

Regular Audits: Periodic internal and external audits can identify areas for improvement and ensure adherence to the journal's policies and guidelines.

ORCID iD: As a registered member of ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID), "The Evidence" requires the use of ORCID iDs for corresponding authors in all accepted research articles. Co-authors are strongly encouraged to use their ORCID iDs for distinguishing individual researchers and address the issue of name confusion in academic literature.

Crossref: As a member of Crossref, "The Evidence" ensures that all its articles are easily discoverable and citable through the assignment of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs).

Continuous Publication Model: "The Evidence" operates under a continuous publication model, allowing articles to be published online as soon as they are accepted.

In the immediate future, the goals include:

Broadened Discoverability: The aim is to secure indexing with multiple abstracting and indexing services to enhance the journal's visibility.

Impact Factor Enhancement: Through the dissemination of high-quality research, the objective is to achieve a noteworthy impact factor within the initial years of operation.

Community Development: Plans are in place to cultivate a robust community of contributors and readers engaged in evidence-based research.

Long-Term Vision

The overarching vision is to establish "The Evidence" as a preeminent authority in evidence-based research. The aim is to proactively influence public opinion and policy, thereby contributing significantly to scientific understanding and societal well-being. As the journal gains prominence, plans exist to introduce special issues that focus on emergent topics requiring immediate attention, ranging from public health crises to technological advancements with ethical or societal implications. In this manner, the journal seeks to lead in shaping public opinion and policy based on scientific evidence. We can leave out the negative part 'rather than conjecture'.

Conclusion

The launch of "The Evidence" represents not merely the debut of another academic journal, but a steadfast commitment to preserving research integrity and facilitating universal access to evidence-based knowledge.

Supporting information

None

Ethical Considerations

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Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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