

Letter From the JCTS Editor

JCTS—Building Momentum

Thanks to the engagement of ACTS membership, the ACTS board, our editorial board, and our publishing partners at Cambridge University Press, the Journal of Clinical and Translational Science (JCTS) has been building momentum to become *the* forum for the clinical and translational research community. As I discussed at Translational Science 2019, here are some of the exciting developments going on at the journal:



- **Indexing.** JCTS has successfully passed the critical step of scientific evaluation in order to be indexed in PubMed. The next stages are more logistical and operational but Cambridge University Press has extensive experience in accomplishing these requirements. Keep in mind, of course, that JCTS articles funded by the National Institutes of Health are *currently* indexed on PubMed.
- **Decision Times.** We are committed to being a highly responsive journal for our authors and research community. I am proud to report that we have substantially reduced the time to first decision in the past six months. We will continue to take steps to accelerate decision times.
- **First View Publication.** After acceptance, manuscripts are advanced to the proofing stage and, once corrected, appear in our “First View” section before formal publication in an issue. However, this process can sometimes take months. JCTS is now working on a feature that will allow us to post the accepted manuscript on Cambridge Core directly after acceptance, reducing the latency time from final decision to publication from several months to several days.
- **New Look.** Working with Cambridge University Press, our cover and articles now have a new look that has been well received by authors and editors alike.
- **Increased Usage and Visibility.** Over the course of 2018, JCTS experienced a doubling of abstract views and article downloads. JCTS

articles have, in recent times, been featured in the AAMC GRANDmail news feeds and a number of our papers have achieved high Altmetric scores. Our goal is to have JCTS be regarded as *the* resource for the broad clinical and translational science community—it is gratifying to see that we are moving in the right direction.

- **Themed Issues.** One new feature in the past six months is the development of themed issues. We hope to attract top submissions from various groups in the wider research community. There is currently a [call for manuscripts](#) for themed issues on Dissemination & Implementation as well as Rural Health. Of note, the idea for the rural health issue came from NIH, with NCATS Director Chris Austin and CTSA Director Mike Kurilla serving as guest co-editors. Other themed issues under development include education and translational methods.

JCTS is building momentum and is now firmly on its way to becoming *the* forum for the best in clinical and translational science. Our goal is to advance health through international, open-access dissemination of high-quality scholarship. I look forward to your further engagement as authors, as reviewers, and as advisors that help us shape the future of the journal and of our field.

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Journal of Clinical and Translational Science

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JCTS's mission is to provide a forum for the rapid communication of topics of interest and relevance to the large and diverse community of clinical and translational scientists with the goal of improving the efficiency with which health needs inform research and new diagnostics, therapies, and preventive measures reach the public. The Association for Clinical and Translational Science has partnered with the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA) and the Clinical Research Forum (CRF) to support the growth and development of JCTS.

Submit your article today to be featured in future issues of JCTS!

News From the Hill

News From the Hill: March 15, 2019

On Wednesday, March 6th, 200 advocates representing the grassroots clinical and translational research community visited Capitol Hill for the annual Translational Science 2019 Advocacy Day. The event was the largest Advocacy Day yet with established and young investigators visiting Senators and Representatives from twenty-eight states.



Advocates took the opportunity to educate their legislators about the value, importance, and local impact of ongoing and emerging research efforts. The community also asked Congress to sustain the ongoing investment in medical research across federal agencies, which has bolstered the full spectrum of medical research.

Shortly after the community's Capitol Hill Advocacy Day, the president released a broad summary of his Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Budget Request to Congress. The non-binding proposal calls for deep cuts to non-defense discretionary programs and large increases to defense spending (although cuts are also included for defense health programs). In summary, the FY2020 budget request features the following items of interest:

See the full newsletter on the [ACTS Advocacy page](#).

Translational Science Today



Does Smoking Cause Dementia? Maybe Not, Study Says

LEXINGTON, Ky. (March 26, 2019) - It's an irrefutable fact that smoking is bad for you. Study after study has proven that smoking increases your risk for cancer, heart disease, diabetes - even blindness. But dementia? Not so fast. A recent study...

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