EDITOR’S MESSAGE

JDPA 2022—Year in Review

With this issue, I complete a full year of being the third Editor in Chief of the Journal of Dermatology Physician Assistants (JDPA). In 2022, JDPA has showcased climate change and its effects on Dermatology practice, shown more representative patient cases by increasing the number of skin-of-color cases, and emphasized mental health monitoring in our patients. The JDPA also added Editorial Board members and peer reviewers.

We are pleased to present the first-annual JDPA Publishing Awards. The JDPA Editorial Board considered all peer-reviewed content published in 2022, nominated articles and authors, and then took a vote on awardees. I am proud of these recipients as well as every author who has submitted their work to JDPA and every peer reviewer and editor who has volunteered their critical eye to improve the manuscripts. Your contribution highlights the best work of dermatology PAs.

Writing is a way to show the medical community your expertise and your clinical knowledge. This year, we published seven first-time dermatology physician assistant (PA) authors. One article that stands out for me as I reflect on 2022 is “COVID-19: A New Etiology for Guttate Psoriasis,” a case report by Kathryn Harrison, MMS, PA-C. This case was timely and relevant.

In 2022, JDPA saw a 17-percent increase in manuscript submissions from those received in 2021 and recorded a 59-percent rejection rate. We have a carefully curated list of both short- and long-term goals for 2023 and hope this readership shares our excitement in working toward them.

One important goal set in 2022 was achieving indexing status on various search engines and databases. We are proud to announce that this issue (Winter 2023 [Volume 17, Number 1]) is the first to be formally indexed on Google Scholar. These articles as well as all peer-reviewed content published in JDPA since its inaugural issue in Fall 2007 will be searchable with full-text indexing on Google Scholar. Your JDPA Editorial Board continues to investigate and pursue additional indexing opportunities. Indexing on Google Scholar and other search engines and/or databases will translate to greater discoverability for JDPA articles and authors among the larger medical community. I would like to congratulate and express my hearty thanks and appreciation to the following individuals as we take this historic step: Angela Saba, JDPA Managing Editor; the 2022-2023 Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA) Board of Directors, led by President Lauren Miller, MPAS, PA-C; and Travis Hayden, MPAS, PA-C, the founder of JDPA. These articles, now in the public domain searchable and citable by researchers and clinicians everywhere, showcase the excellent work of PAs. This is the next logical step for JDPA but a historical step for PA scholarship.

Speaking of excellent work put forth by PA authors, we are pleased to highlight a commentary on advocacy and the PA profession by Jennifer M. Orozco, DMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA, President and Chair of the Board for the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA). Reflecting on being asked about how to gain others’ support of updates to PA practice laws, Orozco says, “Advocacy for the PA profession isn’t about what we deserve; it’s about what patients deserve. Patients are where we must keep our focus.” Holly Glover, MSEd, MPAS, MBA, PA-C, expands on this message of advocacy and explains how the SDPA Legislative Action Committee has been working diligently to “create opportunities for members to get involved legislatively on the behalf of patients and for the advancement of the PA profession.”

Our CME-accredited activity lists conditions that can mimic atopic dermatitis, including immunodeficiencies, malignancies, nutritional deficiencies, and systemic disease. Authors review more rare conditions from these four categories and discuss approaches to patient care in the setting of challenging presentations of eczematous lesions. Michelen-Gómez and Fuxench summarize currently available recommendations based on a review of the literature conducted on biologic use in patients with psoriasis with a focus on specific systemic comorbidities.

Ho and Leon provide comprehensive guidance and a patient question/answer template to better assist clinical visits for human papillomavirus (HPV) type 6 and 11 (i.e., genital warts) with a focus on the presenting male patient. Kabushinskaya, Young, Papavero, and Camisa report a case of primary neuroendocrine carcinoma of the skin (PNECS) with several metastases in an elderly Black man, initially diagnosed as cellulitis by a primary care physician and dermatologist. We also have a professional development feature, “Peer-review Process for the Novice.” My hope, shared by my co-author on this piece, Sara M. Wilchowski, DMSc, PA-C, is that this serves as a roadmap of how to approach a peer review so that the feedback is useful to the author and helps improve the quality of the written work for publication.

Interested in learning how you can get involved in JDPA this year or want to share your feedback? Contact jdpa@dermpa.org. We would love to hear from you.

Cheers to 2023!

Sincerely,

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References