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EDITORIAL

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As JEPHC enters its 4th year, it is timely to reflect on the progress made over the past three years, and outline future directions.

Launched in August, 2003, JEPHC published two issues in each of 2003 and 2004 and three issues in 2005. Feedback was received from the online reader's survey conducted in 2005, in which a number of respondents acknowledged the quality of JEPHC, but also asked if JEPHC could be produced more often with a more constant stream of articles to maintain the interest of the readership. The journal [Editorial Team](#) and [Management Committee](#) have responded to this feedback and have decided to publish four issues of JEPHC in each of 2006 and 2007 and will consider going to six issues in 2008. However, the main consequence of this decision will be dependent on a significant increase of articles offered to the journal for publication over the next two years.

As the journal has grown over the past three years, the total number of articles per issue has averaged 20, of which an average of 6 have been original articles subject to peer review. There has been a steady increase in international articles, some of which have addressed key international issues, eg. Paramedic registration and disaster response. The Journal Management Committee has maintained the journal in its online only format and with free access to all interested persons. In 2005, JEPHC recorded 80,000 new visits and averaged 500 page hits a day over the year, totalling two million hits for the year. The journal has introduced student [prizes for best papers](#) in a number of categories, and now publishes abstracts, not only from the [ACAP Annual National Conference](#) but also from other peak bodies in this field, such as the [St John Ambulance Australia National Conference](#), and the [UK Paramedic Trauma Conference](#). During the past three years, new sections have also been added as the journal responds to the interests of its readers, identified from information captured in two annual reader's surveys, another one of which is currently being prepared for 2006.

JEPHC is honoured to have received assistance from an average of 55 expert peer reviewers in each of the past 3 years. The JEPHC [Editorial Board](#) is inclusive of a dedicated team of professionals involved in Emergency Primary Health Care which is inclusive of both National and International members. JEPHC has been enriched by their guidance and willing contribution. The Editorial Team and Management Committee warmly acknowledge the support provided by peer reviewers and members of the Editorial Board.

A special note has been the strengthening of the leadership position of JEPHC in establishing a framework which now sees the ACAP National Conference, the [Australian Prehospital Emergency Health Research Forum](#) and JEPHC, in a very strong and mutually supportive

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symbiotic relationship, enhanced by the emerging International Prehospital Research Forum with kindred research forums in the UK and the USA.

Of particular note has been the indexing of JEPHC, firstly with CINAHL in its second year, and with EMBASE in its third year. These are outstanding achievements for a new journal and reflect on the leadership of the Editorial Team, the Management Committee, and the expertise of the journal's Editorial Assistant, Rhona Macdonald. Additionally, the content of the journal has reflected a good standard of quality articles, both peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed, for publication over the past three years, which is a crucial factor in the indexing selection process. It is the intention to seek indexing with PUB Med Central in 2006, however, the selection process usually involves approximately 12 months of evaluation and review. Future plans to seek indexing with MEDLINE in 2007 and ISI are hugely significant goals and if successful, will place JEPHC on a sound and highly reputable international footing.

JEPHC is also listed as an approved journal by the Australian Department of Education Science and Training (DEST). The implication of this listing is that not only will authors with peer reviewed articles now have their articles listed on two international electronic databases and hence be able to be searched and located by researchers around the world, but University students and academics who have their articles published in JEPHC will be able to use those publications for purposes of their CV's, and for calculation within their university's research output, which is a high priority driver of all universities and academics. JEPHC encourages the growing number of staff in university-based Paramedic departments to consider publishing in JEPHC to both enhance the quality of the journal and improve their own publications track record.

The journal uses an effective automated editorial tracking system which allows for rapid publication. The process is managed by the Editorial Assistant, with the shortest possible turnaround time from receipt of manuscripts to publication being the priority, while maintaining respect for the generosity of peer reviewers' time and subsequent manuscript revisions that may be required by the author(s). With four editions a year from 2006, the turnaround time for editorial processing has the potential to publish papers within three months from receipt of the submission. This is another attractive feature of JEPHC – good research output can be published fast!

During 2006, another Reader's Survey will be undertaken from which we look forward to receiving your comments as a valuable contribution to further improving the journal. The Editorial Team and Management Committee are also undertaking a review of the Journal's [editorial policies](#) with a view to having any recommendations considered at their October meetings, in consultation with the ACAP Board.

A new feature in JEPHC commencing this year, will be "In other Journals" - a brief review of relevant prehospital care articles in other key journals. Readers can look forward to continuation of the "Opinion" segment, which appeared for the first time, in Volume 3 Issue 4, and has proved very successful judging by the feedback. The use of themes in each issue will also continue and a "call for articles" on specific themes will also be introduced.

Assistance to prospective authors continues to be offered, and any prospective author is invited to contact [Rhona Macdonald](#) for guidance on preparing an article or for assistance with the editorial process.

The Editorial Team and Management Committee meet regularly throughout the year and invite all readers to complete the 2006 Readers' Survey to provide us with your feedback to ensure that JEPHC remains relevant to its readership as it continues to develop and contribute to the promotion of the international knowledge base underpinning emergency primary health care.