Editorials

The Journal of Clinical Pathology goes online (http://www.jclinpath.com)

The presence of the Internet is rapidly changing the world of scientific publication. The move to electronic publishing makes access to journal contents, including those not yet available in print, much more cost-effective and efficient. JCP online contains full text articles plus tables and figures. These are published at the same time as the paper version, and so may be available some time before the paper journal arrives by post. Subscribers to the paper version of JCP and members of the Association of Clinical Pathologists will receive JCP online without additional costs. Institutional subscribers may subscribe to JCP online separately, the price depending on the size of the institution. Within JCP online, there will be room to add “web-extra” material such as (more) colour figures, more extensive tables, animations, three-dimensional pictures and films. Email alerts will automatically alert one to the contents list as a new issue becomes available, and these will soon be customisable to a particular area of interest. The “Collections” feature allows one to search quickly for material in subspeciality areas and this feature links directly with the BMJ and other specialist journals in the BMJ Publishing Group.

There will be quick links to related articles and articles citing JCP papers, as well as many useful links to related or interesting webpages. Accepted papers will be listed, and submitting an eLetter allows quick response to and discussion about published manuscripts. There will be more options to enhance the open review process that we favour. JCP online will facilitate several other developments. A new manuscript tracking system will soon be implemented. This will allow electronic submission and reviewing of manuscripts, which will help to reduce further our manuscript turnaround time. It may well be possible for limited accessibility to the system to be provided for those submitting papers, so that authors can follow the flow of their manuscript through the editorial process. Furthermore, a cross journal reviewer database will soon be implemented. This will simplify finding suitable reviewers, and will not only increase journal efficiency, but will benefit expert reviewers who will no longer need to suffer the receipt of papers from different journals simultaneously. Finally, Pathology Interactive, our educational interactive CD-ROM, will later also be integrated within the webpage. This will increase its availability, simplify its use, and present new interactive learning possibilities with better and faster integration with online literature databases. It will also obviate the current need to distribute CD-ROMs by mail. This improved access supports our view that scientific publication and continuing professional development.

For the foreseeable future, there will be no change to access to the paper version of JCP. It will still be made available to all subscribers. This is obviously important to those without direct online access and laser printers, or to
those who simply prefer to read from a printed journal rather than from a screen.

We think this important new development puts JCP in company with many good journals that are now available electronically and places it on solid ground within the rapidly changing world of electronic scientific publishing.

Please visit our website at www.jclinpath.com and bookmark it!

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