

Intended for healthcare professionals

Global Spine Journal

COVID-19 and the Future

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I am hopeful that things are settling down from the beginning of the year, and that all are safe and looking toward a better and brighter year compared to the challenges we all faced in 2020. Although it is still early, I am already seeing those around me having a brighter and more hopeful outlook for the year. One of the things that continues to amaze me, are the different attitudes toward the pandemic from my colleagues all over the world. Living in California, we had a surge in cases from the holidays, which has died down, and life is starting to resume more toward normal. I was surprised to hear from those living outside California and internationally, concerned about our situation in California. I have learned that those outside of our state and country, do not know our local situation. And, I most likely have no idea what is happening your state, or your own country. I can only hope that we recognize that we probably do not have a comprehensive grasp of exact situation of others, and what others are currently dealing with. We can only understand that we all face challenges and uncertainty, and that we can try to support each other. This is poignantly illustrated by the different opinions regarding the annual Global Spine Congress meeting scheduled for May 2021, in Paris. There are so many different viewpoints and opinions, along with an uncertain future, that make it difficult to pick the optimal date for the event. The meeting will be postponed until later in the year which given the current situation, is a good decision.

With the new year, I wanted to explain some of the changes in the GSJ and answer some questions regarding our blinded review process. With 2020 bringing in such a high impact factor for the journal and cementing our position as the highest rated open-access spine journal, we have seen an explosion in the number of submissions to the journal. Although we are very grateful for the overwhelming number of submissions, we have seen a corresponding increase in our rejection rate. We have had to become more rigorous and selective throughout our peer-review process. We know that this

comes as a disappointment to a lot of authors, as we are just not able to accept as many manuscripts as we did in the past. We employ a rigorous double blinded peer-review process, and we keep the process as fair, ethical and impartial as possible. We do not want authors to be discouraged from submitting to GSJ, but one of the consequences of receiving such a high impact factor is the corresponding influx of manuscripts. We are pleased to see that GSJ has become an in-demand journal in the field, and we want to personally thank everyone who has submitted to GSJ in the past. We want to encourage all authors to continue to submit their articles to GSJ.

We have also recently updated our special collections, which are articles grouped by topics. This allows readers to search for a topic, and then receive all of the published articles relating to that topic. I find this particularly useful when writing a review paper, creating a lecture on a specific topic, or just finding the latest information on that specific subject.

In closing, I want to thank all of those associated with GSJ, and I look forward to a new year where we will once again be able to greet each other personally.

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