

From the Editor's Desk

Upcoming changes in *JRRD*

On July 28, 2005, a quorum of *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development (JRRD)* Editorial Board members met in Baltimore, MD, and after careful consideration, the Board has agreed to implement several changes in *JRRD* starting January 2006. The changes include adoption of clinical trial registration, reformulation of the Clinical Relevance for the Veteran section, addition of *JRRD* Editorial Board members, and announcement of two featured veteran artists for 2006.

The Board has adopted the requirement recommended by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) for registration of clinical trials in a public trials registry. *JRRD* will institute the requirement with submissions starting January 2006. In this issue, following this editorial, is the reprinted ICMJE editorial outlining the recommendations and requirements for the clinical trials registration (the original editorial can be located on the ICMJE Web site at www.ICMJE.com). By requiring this registration, *JRRD* will join a growing list of international medical journals as well as the World Health Organization in promoting public access to all clinical trial registration information.

Acknowledging that *JRRD* has a wide readership that includes clinicians, physicians, scientists, engineers, and laypersons, the Board has decided to revise the current "Clinical Relevance for the Veteran" by returning to the original purpose of the section—informing people in simple language about the content on each article. The clinical relevance section will be renamed "*JRRD* at a Glance," and the revised content will appear in the first issue of 2006. Briefly, the content will contain a paragraph of each article of approximately 100 words, a description of which persons will benefit from the work, and what the likely benefits will be. Each paragraph should enable a patient or family member to decide the appropriateness of discussing the research with pro-

fessionals providing the treatment. It will also help professionals in other fields to decide whether to read or download the article (keep in mind that most readers will see this paragraph as a result of an Internet search and will not have a paper copy of *JRRD* in hand). In addition, submission of this revised section will be required just as the current version of the clinical relevance is required, but the Editorial office will maintain the editorial prerogative to rewrite the section if the submission does not meet the desired standards, subject to the author's approval.

During the past two years, the numbers of submissions to *JRRD* have more than doubled. To provide authors with the most rigorous and timely peer-review process, the Board has recommended the addition of several new members and inclusion of a full-time statistician. Please look for masthead changes in the first issue of 2006.

Finally, *JRRD* is honored to announce that for 2006, two veterans will have their distinguished artwork featured on the regular and supplementary issues of *JRRD*. Edward Tricomi's pastel drawing *Pond* will be featured on the covers of all regular *JRRD* issues, while James Oscar Nelson's oil painting *Let He Who Knows Not How To Pray Go To Sea* will grace the cover of all supplemental issues. Both art pieces were selected from entries in the 2005 National Veteran Creative Arts Festival.

Over the past three years, *JRRD* has witnessed a doubling of submissions and an increase in subscribers of more than 47 percent. We anticipate that the proposed changes and additions mentioned in this editorial will help propel *JRRD* into the top-ranked research journals of the world.

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