

# E-Publishing Comes to AJO

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**A**s we all know, the volume of orthopedic literature has vastly increased over the past 10 years, far outstripping the publishing capacity of many print journals. This journal has often been told of the important need for publication outlets for research studies and original case observations as well as review papers and other formats.

An extremely effective method to accommodate the increased number of worthy articles is to embrace the Internet and publish online, as many other orthopedic journals have done. With this January issue, *The American Journal of Orthopedics* inaugurates an online publishing initiative. The number of articles brought to press in each issue will be increased by publishing some, with the authors' agreement, on the journal's Web site. This is not a publish-ahead-of-print effort, nor a posting of the articles published in the print issue on the Web site (that may follow later in the year). Rather, it is an extension of the print issue into cyberspace; the articles E-published with each issue will be fully a part of that issue.

The advantages to adding an electronic publishing component to the print journal include a greater volume of helpful information available to our readers and shortened time to publication for the entire set of articles accepted by the journal. As would be expected, the online publication of papers is being done in a way that will permit them to be cited in other papers and in *Index Medicus*.

It is my biased, unproven observation that the orthopedic community, as a group, has not fully embraced the Internet as a source of information and continuing education. This tendency, I believe, is generational, as the fellows training in our shoulder fellowship program in recent years turn to the Internet first for literature reviews and journal club articles, rather than referring to printed journals. I must admit that, old-fashioned



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as I am, I still enjoy the weight of a printed journal and the feel of the paper while I read my continuing education articles. But I think we are at a point where both print and Web-based publication is valued. Witness PubMed Central and its major efforts to “fill the role of a world-class library in the digital age.” As the PMC Overview notes, “there is a growing tendency to publish material online only....”

A number of the articles that are being E-published will appear in themed groupings of papers—an **E-Focus**. We intend to invite guest editors for each, to comment on issues related to the focus or on the individual papers in the collection. I urge readers to look over the Table of Contents and the excerpted material from the E-published articles that follows to see whether there are articles on the Web site ([www.amjorthopedics.com](http://www.amjorthopedics.com)) that are of interest to them.

For this issue's **E-Focus on Infections in Orthopedics**, we have invited George Cierny, III, MD, President of the Musculoskeletal Infection Society in 2007, and a pioneer in the treatment of osteomyelitis and limb salvage, to comment on the current assessment and treatment of infections in orthopedic surgery. February's E-Focus on Imaging in Pediatric Orthopedics will lead off with a commentary by Wilfred Peh, MD, AJO's Imaging Series coeditor, on the importance and application of imaging techniques in pediatric orthopedics.

*The American Journal of Orthopedics* is eager to initiate this entry into the electronic publishing era, and we anticipate that this effort will greatly expand the delivery of information to our readers, as well as appeal to our contributing authors by speeding up the process to publication of original work.

We hope you, our readers, agree. ■

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