
Home Hemodialysis International, Innovation, and the Internet

Jill I. Torigian,¹ Zbylut J. Twardowski,^{2,3} Barbara F. Prowant²

Multimed Inc.,¹ Milton, Ontario, Canada; Division of Nephrology,² Department of Medicine, University of Missouri, Harry S. Truman Veterans Administration Hospital,³ Dalton Research Center, Columbia, Missouri

“Genius is hard work, stick-to-itiveness and common sense.”

Thomas A. Edison

Traditionally, the peer review process can take up to nine months or more from the time the original manuscript is first submitted for review to acceptance and ultimate publication in the journal itself. How, rhetorically speaking, can a prestigious journal continue this process, while trying to remain economically solvent in today’s medical publishing environment and still maintain its integrity as a vehicle for quality work.

Our experience as publisher, editors, and authors of peer-reviewed journals and articles has led us to collaborate and bring the peer review process into modern times. We are pleased to introduce to *Home Hemodialysis International* an Internet-based, fully online editorial process, including peer review, the first of its kind in the world.

We feel that the online peer review and editing process will reduce the time factor by 50 percent, thus allowing time-sensitive articles to be published in a more timely and efficient manner. The comparative costs of the process are also minimized as a result of a decrease in delivery charges, telephone and fax charges, and, ultimately, time spent.

We have created and are introducing a multitiered process that makes use of current Internet technology. Appropriate security measures will be in place to ensure that only those individuals with valid usernames and passwords will be granted access to the submitted material.

The authors are to submit their papers to the journal electronically, as outlined in the Instructions to Authors on the inside back cover of this journal. The papers and any graphs, charts, photos, or slides will then be compiled and converted to an Adobe PDF file. The PDF file will be uploaded

to the Multimed Web site. Anyone wishing to review his or her file must have a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on his or her computer. A link to download a free copy of the Adobe Acrobat Reader will be provided on the Web site.

Once the paper is added to the online database, the editor(s) will be notified so that they can view the paper online. The editor(s) will have three options: acceptance without further review, rejection without further review, or acceptance for further review on the Web site. Once the choice has been made, all relevant participants—the reviewers, the author, and the publisher—are notified immediately. Reviewers will be able to gain access to the online paper once they have been supplied with a valid system password. The reviewers then read the online paper and supply their comments on a form that will be available on the Web site. There will be different sections on the form for viewable comments and confidential comments. The appropriate party will automatically receive an e-mail message when the reviewer has finished making comments.

The resubmission process by the author will illustrate where his or her changes were made for quick and easy viewing by the reviewers and editors. Once the reviewers and the authors are satisfied, the paper will be submitted for publication to the publisher. The final version, formerly known as the galley but now called the page proof, will be posted to the site so the author can approve and sign off.

We are looking forward to introducing this unique, online peer review and production process for the 1999 issue of *Home Hemodialysis International*. We anticipate an increase in submissions for 1999 and as such are preparing to use the online peer review process to its maximum potential.

We encourage you to share your thoughts and comments regarding our new process.

Correspondence to:

Jill I. Torigian, Vice-President, Multimed Inc., 66 Martin St., Milton, Ontario, L9T 2R2 Canada.

E-mail: multimed@istar.ca