

# AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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## Joint Statement on Missions and Submissions of Papers to AGA Journals

### The Need for a New Clinical Journal

The Publication and Informatics Committee of the American Gastroenterological Association has decided to expand the opportunities for the publication of clinical research papers in the journals of the AGA. It is the intention to expand the space available for publication of clinical papers and to facilitate the submission, review, and decision processes for authors submitting their work for publication.

To this end, the first step is to introduce into *Clinical Perspectives in Gastroenterology* peer-reviewed original research articles as of the January-February 2003 issue.

The journal shall be relaunched and renamed as *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. It is intended to have a balance of 70%–80% original, peer-reviewed articles in gastroenterology and hepatology, 5%–10% reviews, 5% editorials, and up to 10% articles on policy or reimbursement issues pertinent to clinicians and members of the AGA.

### The Missions of the AGA Journals

The primary mission of this new journal is to publish high-quality papers in clinical gastroenterology, hepatology, and endoscopy that could not historically be published in *GASTROENTEROLOGY* due to space limitations.

The mission of the AGA's new clinical journal *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* will be to attract a large cadre of clinicians, patient- or population-based investigators, and clinical trainees to our readership.

The AGA journals aim to reach the following:

1. Clinical gastroenterologists and hepatologists
2. Patient-oriented investigators in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology
3. Population-based investigators in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology
4. Clinical and research fellows in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, and surgery of the alimentary tract

During 2003, the journal will be published bi-monthly, and from January 2004, the journal will be published monthly. High-quality clinical research papers

that are desirable for *GASTROENTEROLOGY* or *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* are characterized by the following:

1. Hypothesis-driven, mechanistically novel, and appropriately designed and powered studies that address a clinical question using whole persons, tissues from patients, cell lines, and animal models for the translation of basic biology to human disease
2. Studies that ask and unequivocally answer an important question or advance a field of study; this includes appropriately designed and powered clinical trials and studies of pathophysiology and disease mechanisms
3. Population science, outcomes research, and evidence-based original articles that are relevant to the science or practice of gastroenterology and hepatology

*GASTROENTEROLOGY*'s commitment to clinical research and content will remain unchanged, including its annual 13th issue devoted exclusively to clinical reviews.

In addition to the above characteristics, the journal *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* is interested in publishing the following:

1. Carefully studied case series that characterize a disease, mechanism, physiological principles, and novel therapies (medicinal, device, intervention, prevention strategy) that impact the management of clinical disorders
2. Scholarly, clearly written reviews of advances (diagnostic or therapeutic) that are relevant to clinician gastroenterologists and hepatologists; reviews need to be written in a clinician-friendly manner with illustrations that illuminate the advances
3. Articles on endoscopy or practice-based technology, health policy, and practice management

### **Facilitating Submissions to and Decisions by AGA Journals**

To facilitate the submission and review process, both journals will be using an electronic format for submission, review, and communication. As is currently permitted by GASTROENTEROLOGY, there will still be the opportunity to submit the materials on disc with payment of a fee for administrative costs to place the submission in the electronic environment to facilitate review and handling of the manuscript.

Articles may be submitted to either journal, according to the desire of the corresponding author. The review process planned for *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* will mirror that used by GASTROENTEROLOGY.

The level of innovation, excellence of study design, and mechanistic insight provided by individual papers will be key factors that determine the competitiveness of the papers for publication in the premier journal, GASTROENTEROLOGY. However, because many meritorious papers cannot be published in GASTROENTEROLOGY, the intention is to offer publication in *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* as an alternative. Thus, after initial review by GASTROENTEROLOGY, we plan to communicate electronically with authors of meritorious papers that cannot be accommodated in GASTROENTEROLOGY to determine whether they are interested in an EXPE-

DITED review of the manuscript for publication by the sister journal, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. If the corresponding author agrees to this transfer, the entire manuscript file including the initial reviews and administrative materials will be transferred to the expert Associate Editor for *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.

The Board of Editors of *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* will render a decision within 2 weeks, typically without the need for further external review. For manuscripts submitted directly to the new journal, the decision will be communicated after receipt of 2 peer-reviews and the deliberations of the Board of Editors.

For its first year of publication, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* will not appear in Index Medicus. Once it has been included, however, it is anticipated that indexing will be retroactive to the first peer-reviewed issue to be published in January 2003.

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