

A new interactive Radiology journal

Roland Talanow^{1*}

1. Department of Radiology, The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

* **Correspondence:** Dr. Roland Talanow, The Cleveland Clinic, Department of Radiology, 9500 Euclid Ave., 44195 Cleveland, Ohio (✉ roland@talanow.net)

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ABSTRACT

This first issue of the Journal of Radiology Case Reports is dedicated to the concept of this new kind of interactive Radiology journals.

EDITORIAL

Another Radiology journal? What makes it so special?

This new kind of medical imaging related journals is intended to advance medical literature - as it exists of now - to a new level. The new digital era, which we already entered in the 90s of the last Millennium, requires adaptation to the new multimedial and technical opportunities which open for science and education. This new journal aims to adapt and to take advantage of these new opportunities and challenges. But how?

Unique interactivity:

Interactivity is unique and allows viewing the cases as seen on workstations - with scroll and magnifying functions and ability to "window and level". Traditionally, case reports provide only selected images which demonstrate the pathology (or only pertinent findings). This has not only a limited learning value, because the user only receives selected information and cannot "find out" the answer him/herself. But, what is more important, that this kind of provided information does not resemble the "real life" at the radiologist's workstation. When the physician opens a study, the pathology does not jump immediately in the eyes on the first image. The physician has to scroll through the stack of images and has to find the pathology himself. Furthermore, scrolling through the stack of images helps to obtain an overview of the entire environment. This journal provides such an interactivity which is unique worldwide and makes every article very special.

Dedication to case reports and review articles:

This journal is dedicated especially to Radiology case reports and educational review articles. Case reports are usually "neglected" by large or traditional journals, mainly due to competition with "higher value" articles (review, original research etc.) for valuable space in the hardcopy version of the journal. As a consequence, it becomes increasingly difficult to publish interesting cases in a peer-reviewed and scientific environment. Furthermore, case reports are usually treated as a "stepchild" in the scientific world compared to prospective studies or clinical trials. However, we must not forget that case reports often are the ignition for scientific studies or new knowledge in general (1,2). Just to keep in mind that one of the uppermost important topics in Radiology in these days - NSF (Nephrogenic systemic fibrosis) was only detected based on what? - Case reports!

To clarify some definitions:

Case reports may describe either an unexpected association between diseases or symptoms, unique or rare features of a disease, unique therapeutic approaches and findings that shed new light on the possible pathogenesis of a disease or an adverse effect (3).

A case series is a medical research study that tracks patients with a known exposure given similar treatment (4) or examines their medical records for exposure and outcome. A case series can be retrospective or prospective and usually involves a

smaller number of patients than more powerful case-control studies or randomized controlled trials. A case series is a type of observational study. Case series may be consecutive (5) or non-consecutive (6), depending on whether all cases presenting to the reporting authors over a period of time were included, or only a selection.

Review articles summarize the state-of-the-art of a particular topic's literature or provide an examination of recent or current literature on a particular topic (7).

Editorial team:

The editorial team consists of international radiologists and educators, well-renowned in their subspecialty field. To keep the individual workload of each section editor manageable, we are continuously looking for additional motivated professionals who are proficient in their particular field and motivated to become also member of our editorial board.

Peer review:

After a manuscript has been submitted, a section editor is assigned who selects 3 reviewers, based on their interests and level of expertise in that particular field. The review process is blinded, speaking that the reviewers are not exposed to author's or institution's names/addresses. Reviewers receive a deadline, till then they are asked to review the article. The peer review and editorial process conforms to international standards of peer-reviewed scientific/medical journals. Only articles are accepted which provide either new medical knowledge (e.g. rare case reports) or provide improvement in current knowledge (e.g. review articles).

Highest scientific and academic standards:

After acceptance of a manuscript, the article goes through an editorial, proofreading and layout editing process to meet the final high quality standards of this journal. The published articles are presented in standard formats for better compatibility with indexing databases (e.g. Medline/PubMed). Multiple citation methods are offered (including the NLM format). A detailed scheme, how the editorial process works, can be reviewed in figure 1.

When will the first manuscript be published?

Of course, it is always difficult for a new journal to publish its first issue. A child has also first to learn to crawl before it can walk - not speaking of running. The public has first to become aware of this new journal. Also potential authors need first to be found, who are willing to submit the first articles. We expect to officially publish our first issue in summer of 2008. We hope that at that point in time we will have received enough articles for an entire (first) journal issue.

What kind of articles are suited for this journal?

Any kind of medical imaging related articles (case report, case series, review, original research, tutorial) are welcomed, which:

- report and explain unusual or unexpected findings.
- promote knowledge about known and new disease processes.
- expand or refresh knowledge about anatomy in imaging.
- help, better understand technical aspects of medical imaging.
- new scientific data on a smaller scale (studies on small populations, few patients) which could e.g. help, contributing to larger meta-analysis studies.
- other up-to-date knowledge in medical imaging..

Eligible manuscript types

The Journal of Radiology Case Reports offers the submission of following manuscript types: Case report, Case series, Review article, Original research, Tutorial.

Articles may be submitted under the following sections:

- General Radiology
- Neuroradiology
- Pediatric Radiology
- Musculoskeletal Radiology
- Genitourinary Radiology
- Gastrointestinal Radiology
- Obstetric & Gynecologic Radiology
- Interventional Radiology
- Thoracic Radiology Chest
- Breast Imaging
- Cardiac Imaging
- Emergency Radiology
- Nuclear Medicine / Molecular Imaging
- Protocols & Contrast Media
- Technical/IT & Innovative
- Miscellaneous
- Letter to the Editor / Opinion
- Interesting Image

Multiple article formats:

The articles will be available in multiple formats for print and online purposes and adapted to the reader's preference: Available versions include: Abstract, HTML, PDF, and Interactive HTML.

Open access:

The journal is open access and all articles will be available free of charge to the public.

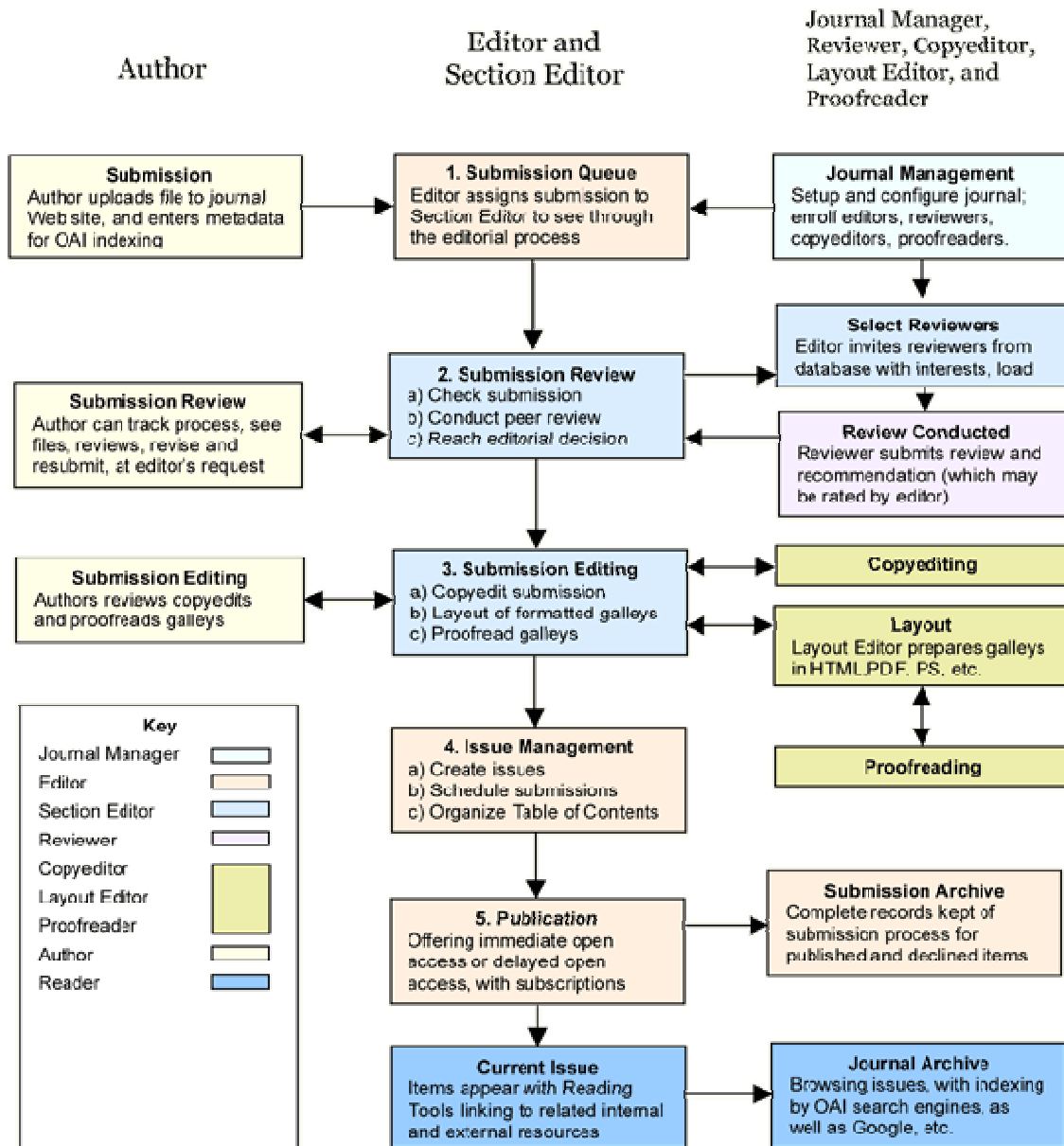


Figure 1: Journal of Radiology Case Reports editorial and publishing process

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- Glossary of Scientific Literature. UNTHSC Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library. <http://library.hsc.unt.edu/guides/LibraryTerms.cfm>

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