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Advancing Women's Health Through Evidence, Equity, and Innovation: Launching JESS: Journal of Women's Health and Sciences

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A New Platform for Women's Health

The fact that the JESS: Journal of Women's Health and Sciences has been launched signifies the start of a scholarly platform focused on the complex, ever-changing, and globally significant area of women's health. This first issue expresses a straightforward yet urgent belief namely that women's health cannot be limited to one organ system, one stage of life, one discipline or one geographical area. It demands an integrated scientific approach which links reproductive health with general medicine, surgery, mental health, public health, social determinants, prevention and long-term well-being.

The biological, clinical, social, cultural and economic contexts through which women experience health and illness are generally closely linked. Problems in women may be overlooked, diagnosed only after a delay, not adequately studied, or be managed on the basis of evidence which does not properly reflect female populations. On the other hand, progress in the areas of diagnostics, therapeutics, genomics, digital health, minimally invasive surgery, reproductive medicine and population health is providing unprecedented opportunities to improve outcomes. JESS was set up in order to combine these different viewpoints and to support research which can have a meaningful impact on clinical practice, policy, education and future research.

Our Mission and Scope

The aim of JESS is to encourage rigorous, ethical, clinically relevant and accessible research throughout all areas of women's health. The journal accepts submissions in the fields of obstetrics and gynaecology, reproductive medicine, maternal-fetal medicine, gynaecologic oncology, breast health, endocrinology, cardiology, mental health, sexual health, urogynaecology, pelvic-floor medicine, menopause, healthy ageing, preventive care, nursing, rehabilitation, public health and other related biomedical sciences.

We are just as committed to working in an interdisciplinary manner. Since many of the most important issues in women's health—such as maternal mortality, infertility, cancer, cardiovascular disease, metabolic disorders, gender-based violence, mental illness, and unequal access to care—cannot be resolved within the confines of a single discipline, we promote collaboration between clinicians, surgeons, scientists, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, epidemiologists, educators, policymakers, and patient advocates.

The journal accepts original research, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, clinical reviews, guidelines and consensus statements, brief reports, perspectives, editorials, correspondence, and carefully chosen case-based educational articles. Manuscripts will be given priority where they show methodological transparency, clinical significance, a responsible interpretation, and a clear addition to current knowledge.

Evidence That Represents Women Across the Life Course

Women's health starts before conception and continues well past the reproductive years; the stages of adolescence, reproductive planning, pregnancy, the period after giving birth, menopause, and healthy aging are connected phases and not separate clinical situations. Complications that occur during pregnancy can indicate a future risk for cardiovascular or metabolic problems; reproductive disorders can have an impact on mental health and on social well-being; and diseases which have always been considered to be neutral in relation to sex may manifest in different ways or may involve a different level of severity in women. Research must therefore look at both the immediate results and the long-term implications.

Jess is looking for evidence that shows the variety of women's experiences. Factors such as age, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status, geography, health literacy, and access to services could affect exposure, diagnosis, treatment, and the outcome. We ask that authors clearly report the study populations, look at any relevant disparities, and refrain from drawing conclusions that go beyond what the evidence supports. Increasing representation is not just a matter of fairness; it also enhances the validity, transferability, and clinical usefulness of the research.

Scientific Integrity and Responsible Publishing

The credibility of a new journal is established one article at a time. JESS is committed to independent peer review, to editorial accountability, to research ethics, to accurate reporting, and to making transparent declarations regarding funding and any potential conflicts of interest. Authors are expected to adhere to reporting guidelines that are widely recognized and appropriate to their study design, to secure the necessary ethical approval and informed consent whenever human participants or identifiable clinical information are involved, and to clearly differentiate between observation, association, and causation.

Systematic reviews need to carry out reproducible searches and establish clear criteria for eligibility. Meta-analyses should include a description of the process for data extraction, the assessment of risk of bias, the statistical models used, the degree of heterogeneity, sensitivity analyses, and any examination of publication bias where this is appropriate. Clinical studies have to give a full account of their outcomes and should not selectively highlight those which are statistically significant. In the case of reports based on individual cases, privacy must be protected and genuine educational value must be shown. The aim of these expectations is not to set up obstacles, but to make sure that the published work can be trusted, understood and built upon.

Since artificial intelligence is being adopted so quickly, it is necessary to have careful governance in place. Although digital tools can help with language improvement, the organization of evidence, imaging, prediction, and clinical decision-making, they cannot take the place of author accountability, expert judgment, source verification, patient consent, or ethical oversight. JESS promotes responsible innovation by asking authors to disclose the use of any generative or analytical technologies that are relevant in accordance with the applicable publication standards.

From Research Publication to Clinical Impact

Research should not regard publication as its ultimate aim. The worth of scholarly work is in its capacity to enhance understanding, question inadequate practices, spot unanswered questions, and lead to better care. That is why we are asking authors to explain the clinical or public-health significance of their results and to present their limitations with the same clarity as they do their strengths. Findings that are negative, replication studies, research into implementation, and well-designed studies carried out in settings with limited resources may be particularly valuable when they deal with important gaps.

We also realise that scientific communication should extend beyond specialists; clear abstracts, correct terminology, well-designed tables and figures, and balanced conclusions all aid clinicians, researchers, trainees, and decision-makers in engaging with the evidence. The journal wishes to support authors by fostering an open and constructive editorial culture while at the same time keeping the standards which are expected of reliable biomedical publishing.

The Inaugural Issue and the Road Ahead

An inaugural issue is not only a significant achievement in publishing but also a clear indication of the journal's intentions. The articles contained in this first issue signal the beginning of a continuous discussion concerning how women's health research should be carried out, assessed, and translated into practical applications. It is impossible for a single issue to cover all aspects of the field. Our duty is to create a journal which links together a wide range of questions, disciplines, and regions by means of a common commitment to scientific quality, ethical standards, and improved health outcomes.

We would like researchers and clinicians to send in work that is original and carefully prepared; reviewers to provide fair, prompt, and expert evaluations; and readers to participate critically by means of correspondence, commentary, and scholarly discussion. We especially welcome new investigators and multidisciplinary groups whose viewpoints can help to expand the evidence base. The editorial decisions will be based on relevance, rigor, originality, transparency, and the possibility of advancing women's health.

JESS's success will ultimately be judged not just by the number of articles it publishes, but by the quality of the questions it helps to answer, by the collaborations it promotes, and by the advances in understanding and in care that result. In this first issue, we are making it clear our dedication is to a journal that is scientifically rigorous, clinically significant, internationally inclusive, and responsive to the changing needs of women throughout their lives.

We on the editorial leadership wish to express our thanks to the authors, reviewers, advisors, the publishing team, and the readers whose contributions and confidence have enabled this launch. We welcome you to JESS: Journal of Women's Health and Sciences and encourage your involvement in helping to shape it as a reliable forum for evidence, equity, and innovation.

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