Turning the page: a welcome from the new leadership of the Journal of Infectious Diseases

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To Our Authors and Readers—This 1 January 2023 issue marks the transition of the editorial board for The Journal of Infectious Diseases (JID), the flagship journal (founded in 1904) of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). For the past 20 years, JID has been expertly led through the numerous discoveries, scientific advancements, and emerging pathogens by its Editor-in-Chief, Dr Martin S. Hirsch, an internationally renowned virologist, researcher, and scholar [1]. More simply put, Marty is both wise and humble, bringing his thoughtfulness, scientific insight, communication skills, and delightful sense of humor to this position. He has been skillfully assisted by Dr David C. Hooper as his Deputy Editor and 12 talented Associate Editors whose judgment and editorial skills enabled JID to flourish (Table 1). As the incoming leaders of JID, we have been so fortunate to benefit from the experience and guidance of Dr Hirsch and the current JID scientific board.

Of course, change can bring both uncertainty and opportunity. So, what can our authors and readers expect? The bedrock of JID, now and going forward, is to promote and publish outstanding infectious diseases science, spanning bench, clinical, translational, and cross-disciplinary research. Amongst the articles published in JID, the virology and malaria science research, in particular, have been standouts, with seminal articles that have shaped the direction of these fields. We hope to further expand JID’s leadership in other areas of the infectious diseases field, for example, in translational microbiome science, clinical field trials, or clinical science with strong, supportive bench science, among others. Additionally, we hope to rapidly inform our readership through presentation of short articles, designed for rapid reader review, on current or topical areas within the infectious diseases field in a new, nimble format called “Viewpoint.” The first Viewpoint will be online in early 2023 and all Viewpoints will be available on the JID website. However, we expect other headers to emerge as we weave in insights on mentorship, career development, scientific implications of clinical trials, statistical testing, reflections on infectious diseases history, and progress on inclusion, diversity, access, and equity (IDAE) [2, 3], among others. Furthermore, we are developing a “Clinician’s Corner” where astute observations at the bedside or bench enhance our disease insights. For example, the first HIV cure in a bone marrow transplant patient was confirmation of the importance of the discovery that a 32-bp deletion in in the CCR5 allele provides resistance against HIV-1 acquisition [4–7].

From a practical perspective, the basic approach to evaluating the science of JID manuscripts will remain largely intact. However, we want to ease the burden of manuscript submission by instituting format-free initial submissions, except for inclusion of line and page numbers that assist the rapid, accurate review of manuscripts. Using this approach, authors will apply full JID formatting standards at the time of manuscript revisions. We plan to test new approaches such as using graphical (visual) abstract tools and author podcasts to assist our authors in developing readily digestible displays of their work. These tools, in turn, will help with distribution of the work of our authors by newly expanded social media support within IDSA’s publications team. The appearance of JID will improve by providing Advanced Access articles in a standard journal pdf presentation that we consider more accessible for review by our readers. We, along with Clinical Infectious Diseases and Open Forum Infectious Diseases, are committed to expanding and enhancing cross-talk amongst IDSA’s journals.

In this issue, you can peruse our biographies and familiarize yourself with the expertise we each bring to JID. In each of the next 4 issues of JID, 4 of our Associate Editors as well as our Statistical Editors will be similarly highlighted. In our quest to bring superb Associate Editors to JID, we drew extensively on the diversity within our infectious diseases community. We are 47% women, 40% individuals of color, range in age from under 40 to over 60 years, and represent all US geographical regions and Europe (Spain). In addition to our hope that our biographies enable you to
Understand better the broad range of infectious diseases science we represent, we expect that our diversity will be a springboard for novel ideas and energetic leadership reflected in the pages of JID.

Thank you for continuing to consider JID as a prime place to publish your clinical, translational, and laboratory-based infectious disease research and for your support during this transition. We look forward to your feedback in this new journey for JID.

Introducing the New Journal of Infectious Diseases Editors

The Journal of Infectious Diseases is pleased to introduce our new Editor-in-Chief, Cynthia L. Sears, and Deputy Editors Upinder Singh and Jonathan Z. Li.

Editor-in-Chief

Cynthia L. Sears, MD, is Professor of Medicine, Oncology, and Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Microbiome Program Leader of the Bloomberg–Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy. Clinically, she focuses on gut infections. She enjoys conducting human translational and bench research stemming from her training as an infectious diseases specialist. Her laboratory focuses on how enteric bacteria and the microbiome promote colon carcinogenesis and modulate cancer immunotherapy responses. She has long been an active member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, serving as President of IDSA in 2019.

Deputy Editors

Jonathan Z. Li, MD, is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He is the Director of the Harvard/Brigham Virology Specialty Laboratory and the Director of the Harvard University Center for AIDS Research Clinical Core. Dr. Li is the chair of two clinical studies in the AIDS Clinical Trials Group and serves on the ACTG Executive Committee. He is also a member of the NIH COVID-19 Therapeutics Guidelines Panel. His research focus is in viral persistence, reservoirs, and drug resistance.

Upinder Singh, MD, is Professor of Medicine, Infectious Diseases, and Microbiology and Immunology at Stanford University School of Medicine. She serves as the Division Chief for Infectious Diseases and the Associate Chair for Faculty Development for the Department of Medicine. Her research program focuses on basic and translational studies of parasitic agents with an emphasis on amebic pathogens. More recently she has been working on COVID-19 treatment strategies and studies of long COVID. She has been an active member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and has served on the IDSA Research and Publications committees.

References


