What is the new editor of *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* going to do with the journal?

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My goals for this talk

Introduce the journal to you  
Introduce myself to you  
Briefly discuss my job at the journal  
Help you get your papers published in *STD*  
Introduce some new initiatives we hope to implement

Who am I?

Professor of Medicine & Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina in the US  
Focus on chlamydial infection, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV, esp. interaction with STDs  
- a generalist, not really a substantive expert in any single STD  
Special Editor for Infectious Diseases, *Epidemiology*  
Former Associate Editor, *Sexually Transmitted Infections*

My first publication in *STD*

Not really a review, not really a commentary, but a “thought-piece”  
It had five reviews, all quite extensive  
It’s been cited 26 times in 17 years (at least it isn’t 0). I think that it stimulated more conversation than citations

What is my job at STD?

Review all papers submitted to the journal  
Make decisions about sending on to Associate Editors versus reject without review  
Assign Associate Editors  
Review paper and reviews when returned by AE  
Make final decisions about accept, revise, or reject  
Solicit commentaries, editorials, invited reviews  
Identify new initiatives for the journal  

*STD* isn’t broken, so what is my main job?
*What is my main job at STD, since the journal isn't broken?*

Don't mess it up!

*What are we looking for in STD?*

Your papers addressing:
- Any sexually transmitted pathogen, including HIV infection
- STD epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, treatment
- STD basic science if relevant to general STD audience
- Sexual health, especially as it relates to STDs

*What are we looking for in STD?*

We will publish papers addressing HIV infection that pertain to:

HIV/STD interaction
HIV epidemiology
HIV prevention
HIV diagnosis

We are not looking for HIV treatment papers

*What are we looking for in STD?*

A note on case reports:

Yes, we occasionally publish case reports

We do not publish very many, and most are not reviewed.

A case report must be truly interesting, important, or novel

*How do I get my paper published in STD?*

Do good science

Write clearly and concisely; follow instructions

Respond to reviewers

Rock the boat!

*Do good science*

The better the science, the better the chance of publication.

Send us your best papers – don’t send them to a more general journal.

- we understand the context better
- we may have an accompanying editorial
- we may publicize it with a press release or social media
Write clearly and concisely; Follow instructions

Spend time editing your paper – make it crisp, concise, clear

If you are not a native English speaker and writing is not easy for you, ask a native English speaker to review/edit the paper - check our website for a service to help with this

Follow the author instructions!

Respond to reviewers

Reviewers donate their time to journals

Be respectful in your responses

Make a change in response to nearly all comments

Try to respond, not rebut…

The best way to ensure rejection after an initial review

Rebut all of the reviewers’ comments rather than respond to them.

Rock the boat

Conventional wisdom is just that – conventional; it isn’t necessarily “right”.

We welcome commentaries or thought pieces that rock the boat – that is how we push the field forward.

But rock the boat respectfully…

I wouldn’t be here without rocking the boat

Emphasis on STD Programs

We hope to provide a forum for additional papers from the providers in the field

Sometimes, that may mean accepting papers that are not a typical academic paper

When we have an interesting paper that is not suitable for publication in its own right, we may suggest connecting with an established academic investigator to help shape the paper
**Junior investigator initiatives**

Identification as junior investigator during manuscript submission  
Annual award for best paper by a junior investigator  
Expedited review of the manuscripts from posters/presentations from this meeting  
Paired mentor-trainee manuscript reviews for US STD Prevention Training Center fellows  
Increased the number of junior investigator reviewers

**Emphasis on junior investigators**

We want to encourage bright, talented junior scientists to conduct STD research

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If you’re a junior investigator, talk to me!  
Stop me at this meeting. Talk to me about STD
Tell me what research you’re doing.
Ask me for advice – manuscripts, career, whatever

That means YOU!!!!

**Special Thanks**

Jeanne Moncada for doing the real work with the journal
Julie Schachter for believing that I would be a good person to follow in his footsteps
ASTDA for choosing me as Editor-in-Chief, and their support during my first year in the position.

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