

2012 CALL FOR PAPERS

West Virginia
Medical JOURNAL
West Virginia State Medical Association

THEME: The Art, Science and Ethics of Prevention*

I. Consistent with the theme, one paper (addressing preventive education, screening, assessment and interventions) will be accepted on each of the following topics (Addressing unique WV genetic, cultural, environmental and demographic influences is encouraged):

- Women's Health
- Men's health
- Newborns/ Growth and Development (pre-teen)
- Adolescent Health
- Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke
- Mental Health (including Autism and Dementia)
- Cancer
- Genetics
- Kidney Disease
- Immunizations
- Endocrine Disorders
- Life-Style Medicine

II. One paper on the status and role of health information technology in assisting physicians meet the expanding preventive health challenges.

III. Two papers addressing ethical issues, controversies and dilemmas involved in providing preventive care to individual patients, including balancing clinical and non-clinical benefits and risks, as well as the duties and responsibilities of all involved parties. (These could be scientific or commentary articles.)

IV. One paper addressing the interplay of the ethical obligation of the physician to both the individual patient and community, i.e., public health. (Commentary article.)

DEADLINES:

Manuscript submission:	December 1, 2011
Reviews returned by:	February 1, 2012
Resubmissions:	March 1, 2012
Printing:	May/June 2012 issue

Submissions must include:

- 1) cover letter (include corresponding author's email address)
- 2) manuscript (double-spaced)
- 3) short biography for each author
- 4) three questions and answers pertaining to the manuscript (for CME Post-test Questions)
- 5) a paragraph stating the objectives of the paper

Send to angie@wvsmma.com or mail to:

Angie Lanham
Managing Editor, *WV Medical Journal*
PO Box 4106, Charleston, WV 25364

6) All figures and photos must be submitted separately as .jpg, .tif or .pdf files.

7) The word count limit is 2,500 with a limit of 5 visuals (i.e., 3 tables and 2 figures). Actual figure and table size is left to the discretion of the managing editor, as space is available.

Scientific articles should be prepared in accordance with the "Uniform Requirements for Submission of Manuscripts to Biomedical Journals." Please go to www.icmje.org for complete details. For additional requirements, please refer to *Manuscript Guidelines* located on the last page of every Journal or go to www.wvsmma.com/journal and click on the link.

For specific instructions concerning Case Reports go to: www.wvsmma.com/journal and click on the "Instructions to Authors" link.

* The exponential expansion of scientific knowledge over the last 50 years greatly expands the "proactive" challenge of physicians to fulfill their primary duty to assist each patient prevent, delay the onset of, or minimize the consequences of disease and disability through provision of timely and appropriate education, screening, assessment and interventions. Such knowledge also introduces new challenges to "do no harm." This involves not only "clinical" harm pursuing "false positive" and "false negative" screening results but the psychological, social, economic and related consequences of "knowing" or being "labeled." At times it also creates a new tension in the patient- physician relationship as regards the "duties" and "responsibilities" of each party.

An additional area of significant controversy involves each physician's duty to "protect the public's health" and the degree to which this extends to the "stewardship" of limited societal resources. Although the physician's duty to each unique patient is viewed as sacrosanct, the duties to assist society avoid inappropriate and wasteful use of scarce resources cannot be ignored. As an example, commenting on the use of screening tests in terminally ill patients, Dr. Danielle Ofri stated "While cancer screening is critically important there is a danger that the screening engine in our society is a one track train, plowing forward, staying on message, not to be bogged down with conflicting data, nuanced reasoning, or messy statistical analyses."

This issue attempts to assist West Virginia physicians better understand, balance and meet these challenges and duties by comprehensively exploring this topic.