Managing Editors-in-Chief, Transitions, and Beyond!

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*African Journal of Laboratory Medicine (AJLM)*
Background

AJLM
- Online, open-access society journal
- Society in Ethiopia
- Publisher in South Africa
- Began publishing 2012 with support from US CDC
- ~125 submissions in 2016

CONTEXT
- First Managing Editor in April 2014 / joined CSE late 2015
- Editor-in-Chief hemorrhagic fever expert based in Senegal
CSE to the Rescue!

Managing Editor-in-Chief Transitions

- “Editor Searches”, Heather Goodell
- “Business Logistics of Transitioning a New EIC”, Judith A. Connors
- “Editorial Transitions”, Katherine Egan Bennett
Back at my desk...

...reality set in.

- **What I learned:** Editorial Boards should be involved in the search for and selection of a new Editor-in-Chief

- **What actually happened:** the new Editor-in-Chief had already been chosen by the interim EIC & society / Editorial Board not involved

- **What I did instead:** used the opportunity to ‘educate’ the society and Board about editorial independence and ‘norms’ for how well-established journals do things
Back at my desk…

• ...unexpected applications.
  – What I learned: candidates for Editor-in-Chief should submit a CV and vision statement, serve for a defined term
  – Where it applied: onboarding of new Editorial Board members
  – What we did: require a CV of new Editorial Board members and explicitly state that they serve a two-year term of service
Back at my desk…

• ...expected applications.
  – **What I learned:** An Editor-in-Chief should serve for a defined term and have a contract with the society
  – **Where it applied:** onboarding new Editor-in-Chief
  – **What we did:** established a contract between society and new EIC with specific term of service, statement of editorial independence, etc.
Take Home Messages

• Be flexible!
  – Everything you learn may not be applicable to your own situation or it may apply in unexpected ways.

• You might be ignored, but that’s OK!
  – You can still establish yourself as a knowledgeable resource and educate stakeholders.
Thank you!

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