



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
- Ebola epidemic: late 2014-2015



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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