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Letters to the Editor

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine Resident and Student Association Blog: 360° Education

To the Editor: We read with interest the recent article by Sidalak et al, "Coached Peer Review: Developing the Next Generation of Authors." We, too, believe that almost all articles can

eventually be published, and wish to share the article process for the American Academy of Emergency Medicine Resident and Student Association (AAEM/RSA) Blog (http://aaemrsa. blogspot.com). Every submission is part of a 360° teaching endeavor involving readers, authors, and reviewers. The AAEM/RSA Blog posts submissions by students, residents, and fellows.

Author education: Authors receive feedback via a formal peer review rubric completed by a student or emergency medicine (EM) resident, in addition to feedback from the editor-in-chief (EIC) or deputy editor (DE), both of which are senior EM resident positions. All blog authors have regular communication with the EIC or DE throughout the submission process.

Reviewer education: Reviewers receive instruction on performing peer review with feedback from the EIC or DE. All peer reviewer comments are screened to ensure the authors receive professional feedback.

Academic journal partnership: The AAEM/ RSA Blog and the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine (WestJEM) enjoy an in-kind relationship in which WestJEM section editors provide additional 1-1 mentorship to authors and reviewers for submissions that could especially benefit from expert writers/reviewers. The WestJEM section editors also created written peer review guidelines with the inaugural EIC and DE. Moreover, one of the most consistent challenges for journals is developing a cadre of dedicated and knowledgeable reviewers. With this in mind, WestJEM invites the best graduating resident AAEM/RSA Blog reviewers to become reviewers for WestJEM. This partnership between a journal and blog is an excellent way to begin training the next generation of peer reviewers.

Outcomes: To date, 41 authors have published with the guidance of 29 peer reviewers. We were initially concerned that peer review by students and residents could reduce quality or readership. However, since the implementation of weekly posts with our 360° format in 2014, readership increased 257% from 709 monthly page views to 2,534. Additionally, the average time from submission to publication, including all mentorship activities, is only 2.6 months.

We believe the AAEM/RSA Blog is a successful model to develop young writers' skills, train future journal reviewers, and provide a reliable, free source of EM information for our colleagues worldwide.

Disclosures: None reported.

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Reference