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EDITORIAL

## A RESOURCE FOR PARAMEDICINE LEADERS

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The National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA) is proud to launch the *International Journal of Paramedicine (IJOP)*. This new journal is intended to be an outlet for paramedic scholarship while serving as a resource for leaders in the field of paramedicine.

Throughout the evolution of paramedicine, the United States has had a number of publications that can best be described as EMS media outlets or trade publications. This includes *JEMS*, *EMS World*, and *EMS1.com*. While we recognize the continued value of these outlets, we do not intend to compete with them.

We also recognize we are joining a distinguished list of peer-reviewed journals with focuses on quantitative clinical research: *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*, the *Air Medical Journal*, and our most widely recognized journal, *Prehospital Emergency Care*. Likewise, our international colleagues have developed journals dedicated to paramedicine including the *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine*, the *British Paramedic Journal*, and the *Irish Journal of Paramedicine*.

To determine the aim and scope of this journal, we studied a variety of peer-reviewed scholarly publications that focus on diverse content in addition to quantitative research: *Harvard Business Review* for business administration; *Proceedings*, the U.S. Naval Institute publication concerning military leadership and doctrine; and *Health Affairs* for policy development and analysis.

Understanding the existence of this robust and diverse set of EMS publications, our goal is to fulfill a different niche. *IJOP* will neither focus on industry news nor be limited to publication of research. We intend to provide thoughtful, well-researched information that is useful to the paramedic leader. We will be a credible source of information that publishes scientific

research and other types of academically oriented papers. We further anticipate content on many areas of our practice, including but not limited to clinical care, process improvement, quality, safety, finance, legal issues, organization, system design, human resources, education, government relations and the culture of paramedicine. We want to present the high-quality work of our peers to build a broader base of scholarship for the current and future generations who will lead our field.

Building a new journal is no small task and NEMSMA is grateful to the large team of volunteers from across our profession who have stepped up to help us manage the many facets of this new endeavor. While our team is made up of many familiar names who have made substantial contributions to the advancement of Emergency Medical Services over their careers, we also look forward to welcoming a new generation of contributors who will help lead us for years to come through scholarship and diversity.

The *IJOP* will leverage the latest technologies in online publication. Our editorial team and reviewers are located around the world. Our ability to accept, review, and publish articles will be continuous, and access to our publication will exist across a variety of platforms. Making this possible will be a large team of academics, working professionals, and distinguished retirees dedicating their time and talent to this important work. We are grateful to our diverse team of editors and reviewers who will bring international expertise from across our field. As with many projects begun during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, this project has been challenging and our reviewers and editors have yet to come together in person. Despite this challenge, I have no doubt our team will continue to refine the vision for this journal and help us accomplish great things.

Finally, we want to emphasize that a key objective of *IJOP* will be to serve as an outlet for paramedic-led scholarship. Historically in the United States, scholarship, and to a large extent clinical leadership, has been the domain of our physician colleagues. We are grateful to the many committed physician scientists and academics who have brought EMS to where we are today, as we could not have come this far without them. The next appropriate step, however, is for paramedics themselves to build and advance their own profession. What this requires is paramedic scholars, a community that we must develop through the proliferation of undergraduate and graduate programs in paramedicine and related fields. NEMSMA has been a strong and sometimes outspoken proponent of this important evolution. We hope our field of paramedicine will follow the fields of medicine and nursing, both of which have created robust models for this professional development.

While we do intend to prioritize the contributions of paramedics, we will also welcome contributions from other professionals across all medical disciplines. We also encourage contributions that focus on the inter-disciplinary collaboration needed to better serve our patients and our communities.

Thank you for joining us on the *IJOP* journey. Please reach out if you are interested in being part of the *IJOP* team, and do not hesitate to let us know how we are doing as the journal evolves.