We live in surreal times due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic while we grapple with the unique challenges it has presented us. We have had to radically transform how we interact with one another and adapt to a new reality in the pursuit of research and scholarship. This crisis has also underscored the continued importance of international collaboration and the rapid dissemination of new evidence and best practices.

The Journal of Medical Imaging and Case Reports (MICR or J Med Imaging Case Rep) is dedicated to clinical and scientific research germane to all imaging modalities including ultrasound, magnetic resonance, radiography, fluoroscopy, computed tomography (CT), optical, and nuclear medicine imaging for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes as well as related applications such as artificial intelligence.

With the increasing diagnostic capabilities of medical imaging techniques, the number of imaging examinations has grown significantly over the past two decades [1, 2]. Cost-effective, safe, and high-quality imaging is an important tool in the medical armamentarium. It is critical for effective medical and surgical decision-making and reducing unnecessary interventions. Through the publication of rigorously peer-reviewed open-access scholarly research, MICR aims to be a world-class scientific journal and a valuable resource for researchers, clinicians, and policy makers across different disciplines.

In view of the rapid advances in medical imaging research, we aim for expedited turnaround for the peer-review process. A manuscript will receive initial peer-review comments from two reviewers in a double-blind process and editorial decision within a few weeks. Our goal is to publish accepted manuscripts within 6 to 8 weeks of initial submission. MICR continues to publish peer-reviewed case reports as well as original research and review studies at an increasing rate.

We work with many partners to ensure our peer-review and publishing process remains robust and efficient. Google Scholar indexing has afforded our articles increased visibility. Each one of our published articles is assigned a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) name, which enables easy retrieval and reference linking. We accept manuscript submissions through Editorial Manager developed by Aries Systems, the industry leading peer-review tracking system for scholarly journals. This platform has streamlined communication and feedback between authors, reviewers, and editors. In order to guard against plagiarism, all of our submissions are run through Crossref’s Similarity Check powered by iThenticate. This tool compares each submission to a vast content database containing millions of journals, books, and web pages. We have also partnered with Portico for archiving and digital preservation of all our articles over the very long term.

Over the next year, we also intend to publish a special issue named “Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19): Radiology Focus”, which will include case reports and other research related to COVID-19 and the virus responsible for the disease, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).
Medical imaging has a key role to play in the diagnosis and follow-up of COVID-19 [3]. In particular, CT and chest radiography are widely used to these ends [4]. Both common and unusual manifestations of COVID-19 involving various organ systems deserve recognition and dissemination to an international clinical audience.

As I assume the role of Editor-in-Chief, I will strive to protect the scientific integrity and quality of our publications while maintaining an efficient time to response. I look forward to working closely with our journal staff and editorial board comprised of experts from many countries and imaging disciplines to attract further high-quality submissions.

Thank you to our dedicated group of expert peer-reviewers from around the world – who devote time out of their doubtless busy schedules – for their contributions and timely feedback that lead to worthy publications [5-7]. We welcome additional interest from individuals with clinical and research expertise to serve as reviewers. It is also my mission to recruit more individuals with expertise in specific subspecialty fields of medical imaging to serve as editors to further advance our journal.

I am grateful for your continued readership.

Sincerely,

Ian Y. M. Chan, MD, MPH
Editor-in-Chief

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References


