1 March 2021

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Contributors

As you may have heard, I’ve had the honor of being selected to serve as the next editor-in-chief of *Journal of Neurotrauma*. I feel truly fortunate to have this opportunity to be of service to *Journal of Neurotrauma*, and to the neurotrauma research community as a whole. I’m most grateful to Dr. John Povlishock for his leadership, for his kindness, and for the grace with which he has passed the torch. The *Journal of Neurotrauma* and *Neurotrauma Reports* teams are now poised to build upon the marvelous foundation he has constructed as we move together into a new era for our important field. We will all be focusing intensely and thinking together about how we can optimally nurture, promote, and disseminate high-quality science that improves outcomes for traumatic brain and spinal cord injury patients.

In this introductory letter, I would like to share with you some of the strategies and tactics that will guide the next chapter in the lifecycle of *Journal of Neurotrauma*:

1. A relentless drive to improve the quality and impact of the research in our field. We will be accepting fewer total manuscripts at *Journal of Neurotrauma*, and aim to work closely with our sister publication, *Neurotrauma Reports*, in order to provide an appropriate forum for all high-quality publications in the field.

2. A commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will proactively seek to publish high-quality research from authors from underrepresented and historically disadvantaged backgrounds. Please communicate with us about these factors in your cover letters.

3. A renewed focus on speed. Our ambitious goal is to return a first decision to the authors within 14 business days of initial submission for 95% of the manuscripts. This means that we will make decisions within 1 business day from our editorial board members about whether papers should go out for review, expect responses from potential reviewers within 1 business day, and expect a first editorial decision with reviews back within 10 business days. When time is of the essence, send your best manuscripts to *Journal of Neurotrauma*.

4. Rigor and reproducibility will be assessed for every manuscript, including careful attention to areas such as randomization, blinding, preregistered study designs, effect sizes, correction for multiple comparisons, and replication.

5. Transparency will be the norm, with an expectation that full data sets will be released to qualified researchers through Dryad, the Open Science Foundation, or other appropriate venues.

6. Emphasis on topics of increasingly recognized importance: sports concussion, military injuries, and neurotrauma in low- and middle-income countries. We are looking forward to working with experts on these topics to bring high impact work to the community. Furthermore, we remain committed to publishing top quality mechanistic, diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic papers relevant to clinical and translational traumatic spinal cord and brain injury.

7. Expanded communications of your most impactful findings. We will be making careful use and employing best practices when it comes to marketing and promoting our output, including the use of social media and press releases, to promote your best work around the world. The journal has access to top-notch author services, including professional editing, multimedia, infographics, illustration, and translation services. Your best work will get the attention it deserves.

I’m looking forward to your questions, comments, and suggestions for how we can move forward together.

With my best personal regards,

David L. Brody, MD PhD
Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Neurotrauma*