

## The European Paediatric Association Partners with *The Journal of Pediatrics* to Make Original Research Available to Our Members

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The European Paediatric Association (EPA) is pleased to announce a new partnership with *The Journal of Pediatrics*. We are proud to have established an affiliation with this prominent journal, which is published monthly by Elsevier. *The Journal's* mission is: "Through a rigorous process of evaluation and peer review, *The Journal of Pediatrics* strives to publish pediatric research of the highest value for a diverse audience of pediatric healthcare professionals... *The Journal* seeks to inform immediate care decisions, deepen knowledge, and advance further scientific discovery to improve the quality of care and the health of infants, children, and adolescents" (<http://www.jpeds.com/content/missionstatement>).

The latter part of the mission will be especially important for the practice-focused members of EPA because it harmonizes with EPA's vision: "By 2015, [EPA will] be internationally perceived as the leading paediatric association in Europe and neighbouring areas, representing leading operative standards for uniting paediatricians internationally and facilitating their joint efforts to work, learn and grow together" (<http://www.epa-une psa.org/page/mission-objectives>).

In terms of quick access to medical updates, this new collaboration with *The Journal* will have a profound effect on our members by dramatically improving our membership's access to new original research. Because *The Journal* publishes original clinical research articles, the clinical updates to members of EPA will now take an important step toward the research front, and thereby provide members of EPA with quicker access to premier quality pediatric research.

This change indicates the start of a new important era for EPA. Making primary clinical research available to our members, of course, comes with a responsibility, and this is worth a comment. If and how to best use new research data clinically is a widely recognized challenge. Individual clinical trials do not necessarily reflect real-life clinical practice because patients cannot be stratified or randomized in clinical practice. The results of trials may or may not be applicable for the individual patient's situation.

We believe in our members' ability to make clinical decisions if given access to new high-quality data. To date, that part has been missing. The research will, of course, remain important, and it will be even better covered from now on through the complementary educational functions of easily-digestible EPA newsletter features, scientifically robust

reports by *The Journal*, and best practice live updates at our conferences.

New technologies enable research to be published faster, and new results can be effectively translated into new best practice, which can make a real difference for our patients. Hence, we believe that quicker access to original research can benefit our patients; *The Journal*, like EPA, has its focus on end user value.

In this section of *The Journal*, EPA members can expect to read about new initiatives by EPA, and the progress of ongoing, long-term projects. Important organizational changes will be announced as needed, and members can follow our current thinking on how we can further improve European pediatrics. Overall, these pages aim to share important information about our society and our indefatigable efforts to jointly advance international pediatrics.

By the time this text is published, EPA members are likely to already have seen and participated in the European Weaning Study, a study that seeks to identify the similarities and differences in current European weaning practices. The study will be described in detail in the EPA Newsletter this autumn. We hope that pediatricians who are not yet members of EPA will also benefit from the information shared in this section of *The Journal*.

Perhaps the most attractive short-term information will be about our conferences. Readers may be curious to explore our activities, several of which will be open for collaboration beyond the European borders. We invite you to take a minute to visit the EPA website, where ongoing activities and basic information about EPA are always accessible ([www.epa-une psa.org](http://www.epa-une psa.org)).

At EPA, we believe in empowering general pediatricians with the best available research in the field, so that they can make informed decisions for individual patients, a mission that is shared by *The Journal*. We hope that the information contained in this section will provide you with stimulating reading, including news from the research front, information about EPA and our activities, and updates on the development of our flagship event, the 6th EUROPAEDIATRICES meeting in 2013. EPA is very interested in receiving feedback from its members, which can be e-mailed via our website [www.epa-une psa.org/contact](http://www.epa-une psa.org/contact). ■