

## **Journal of Blood Services Management Overview**

*The Journal of Blood Services Management* will be the premier journal for thoughtful leaders in blood center and transfusion service management. We seek thought-provoking and rigorous articles that lead to new ways of approaching the field of blood center and transfusion service management and leadership. As such, we are looking for papers presenting new research, innovative theoretical approaches, changes in management paradigms, and action (both examples of successes and failures as long as there are important lessons to be learned) from leading scholars and practitioners. Articles will generally fall into two broad categories: (1) those grounded in theory and/or papers using scientific research methods (e.g., reports of original empirical studies, fully referenced articles, critical reviews of existing empirical research, theory pieces that clearly extend current thinking); and (2) those focusing on innovative blood service management approaches that are based on well reasoned-extensions of existing research, experiential knowledge, or exemplary cases (e.g., thought pieces, case studies, top executive interviews).

*The Journal of Blood Services Management* will be a journal that both adheres to high scholarly standards and provides useful information to blood service professionals and business leaders.

*The Journal of Blood Services Management* will strive to create a bridge between academic work (research and theory) and real-world practices, allowing academicians to learn from practitioners and allowing practitioners to apply leading-edge research and theory to their day-to-day operations. By publishing manuscripts grounded in scholarly principles that also address relevant blood service management issues, the journal truly bridges the worlds of practice and theory—and does so to the benefit of executives and academics alike.

## **Content and Review Methods**

The Journal's content is presented in two formats: (1) Original Research and (2) Practitioner Focused articles that adhere to high academic standards, while focusing on topics of interest to the overall readership. Following an initial prescreening by the Editor in Chief that generally assesses a manuscript's appropriateness for the Journal, manuscripts are typically sent to two to four reviewers with expertise in the paper's topic or methodology. Authors receive reviewer comments with their decision letter. Authors who are using accepted scientific methods for their research, whether the data are quantitative, qualitative, or primarily contributions to theory, should submit their papers to the Original Research section.

The Practitioner Focused section includes papers that are more practitioner-focused, including case studies, invited pieces from thought leaders, in-depth interviews, and fully referenced articles about issues that affect blood service managers. Practitioner Focused papers undergo the same peer review process as original research papers. Manuscripts are typically sent to two to four reviewers with expertise in the paper's subject matter. Authors receive reviewer comments with their decision letter. Authors will receive feedback from both the reviewers and the editors as they develop manuscripts. Although papers accepted into this section do not necessarily meet the strict requirements of the scientific method, only manuscripts that are extremely well written, that follow rigorous processes in fact finding and conceptual logic, and/or fully referenced and that make significant contributions to the knowledge base in the field of blood service management will be accepted for publication.

## Subject Matter

The subject matter for both sections varies. “Blood Service Management” for *The Journal of Blood Services Management* includes a broad spectrum of organization and management issues facing blood service managers. Typically, topics will include:

- Financial management
- Supply chain management
- LEAN / 6 Sigma
- Plasma
- Regulatory management
- Component manufacturing management
- Donor Recruitment
- Public Relations and Communications
- Information Technology Management
- Hospital and Customer Relations
- Board and Governance
- International Issues
- Hospital Based Blood Services
- Tissue Program Management
- Risk Management
- Competition
- General Management and Leadership
- General Medical and Technical Service Management

This list is by no means exhaustive. Authors are encouraged to submit papers on any topic they feel may be relevant and of interest to blood service and transfusion service managers. Authors may wish to contact the Editor in Chief in advance to discuss potential articles and papers.

## **What the Editors and Reviewers Look for**

### **Introduction/Purpose**

The most scrutinized section of any paper (or article) is the introduction. The introduction should lay out for the reader what the paper will do, the questions or issues, why they are important, and how they will be addressed. Long, obtuse, or unfocused introductions indicate a paper needs work. After the introduction, the reader should want to read the rest of your paper.

### **Innovation**

We seek papers that extend current thinking—addressing the “next practice,” not necessarily just the “best practice.” Papers are less interesting if they only provide a review of “what has been done” (e.g., the “last ten years of blood service and transfusion management”).

### **Research Methods**

We are open to a variety of research methods. Authors with ideas for original research should feel free to contact the Editor in Chief for assistance with research design and/or statistical analysis interest.

We adhere to a broad definition of what is considered “interesting.” When we review the manuscript, the questions we will ask are:

- If the ideas in this paper were presented to a group of senior blood service and transfusion leaders, what would they say? Would they be excited, informed, challenged, or helped by the ideas in the manuscript? Would the presentation spark debate, conversations and ideas for actions?

- If the ideas in the paper were presented at a professional association meeting such as AABB, would people come? Would the ideas be consistent with other presentations in terms of rigor and appropriateness for the audience?

We are particularly interested in “ideas with impact”—on either practice or research. In practice, this means developing papers that are engaging, lively, challenging, and stimulating.

### **Implications**

The bulk of our audience is connected to blood service management. We require authors to address “implications” in their manuscript, either implications for research (if the article is primarily research- oriented) or implications for practice (if the article is primarily practitioner focused). **The Basics**

### **Tone**

Papers too light in tone use inflammatory language (e.g., “managers need to wake up to the call for quality”), which may be more appropriate for a newspaper or magazine. Papers too heavy in tone may be more appropriate for purely scientific journals (e.g., extensive discussion of the “latest” statistical technique).

## **Mastery of the English Language—Clear, Concise, and Compelling Writing**

We are sensitive to, and appreciate, the fact that English is not the first language of all submitting authors. However, the Journal is published in English, and any editing that improves the flow and readability of the manuscript will improve our ability to assess its quality and contribution. Following the Journal's standard formatting guidelines (see "Information for Contributors" we need to say where this is – website?) will increase the likelihood that your manuscript will make a favorable impression on reviewers if your work is sent out for peer review.

### **Summary**

We recognize that many potential authors may be intimidated at the thought of writing for a peer reviewed Journal. We wish to reassure these authors that the editorial staff is willing to assist in any way possible to help you write a paper for submission. For those who have never written a paper for peer review, you may wish to think of it as nothing more than writing a "term paper". That is, a paper that follows a specific format (e.g. footnotes), and that contains appropriate citations. Commentaries and letters to the editor are familiar to most potential authors. Authors considering original research should not hesitate to contact the Editor in Chief with questions. The EIC can either help you directly, or ensure that you get assistance to carry out your research project in a scientifically acceptable fashion.