

# AFP 2024: Introducing Our New Fellow and Representative, Updates and Statistics, Call for Videos, and Thanking Peer Reviewers

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This is *American Family Physician's* (AFP's) 74th year of publication and the seventh annual editorial in my role as editor-in-chief to update readers on new editorial team members, AFP's top viewed content, circulation and website statistics, and important journal initiatives, and to thank our treasured peer reviewers.<sup>1-6</sup>

## MEDICAL EDITING FELLOW, AND RESIDENT AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The AFP team welcomes Dr. Michelle Nelson as this year's Jay Siwek Medical Editing Fellow. Dr. Nelson serves as associate program director and core faculty at Michigan State University Medical Center Alma Family Medicine Residency. Her role includes a focus on research and point-of-care ultrasonography. You can read more about her background and interests in the AFP Community Blog at <https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/afp-community-blog/entry/introducing-the-2024-2025-afp-jay-siwiek-medical-editing-fellow-dr-michelle-nelson.html>.

In addition to fellows, AFP has resident and student representatives who assist with various projects throughout the year and typically serve annual terms from January through December. Adedayo O. Jobi-Odeneye, a third-year medical student at Ross University School of Medicine in Barbados, serves as the student representative and has already contributed so much this year. More information about the representative positions is available at <https://www.aafp.org/afp/residentrep> and <https://www.aafp.org/afp/studentrep>.

The AFP Photo Contest is an ongoing project created by the resident and student representatives. Residents and students are encouraged to share their stories about how they use AFP through photographs. The 2024 winners are featured in this issue and will be announced at the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) National Conference for family medicine residents and medical students in August.

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## AFP'S TOP 20 ARTICLES OF 2023

Don't miss the top 20 AFP articles that were most viewed by readers online last year.<sup>7</sup> Popular article topics included hypertension, syncope, fibromyalgia, menopause, osteoporosis, asthma, chronic kidney disease, and childhood and adolescent sports-related overuse disorders. This top 20 list is the basis for selecting the AFP Article of the Year Award winner, which will be announced in September at FMX in Phoenix, Ariz., and in a fall issue of AFP. The 2022 award went to the authors of "Evidence-Based Contraception: Common Questions and Answers."<sup>8</sup>

The top 10 AFP Community Blog posts of 2023 were highlighted in the December 26, 2023, post.<sup>9</sup> Topics include "Frankenstein opioids," berberine ("nature's Ozempic"), respiratory syncytial virus vaccination, accurate blood pressure measurements, major depressive disorder, and U.S. Preventive Services Task Force breast cancer screening changes.

One of AFP's most popular article series, the top research studies of 2023 for primary care physicians (top 20 POEMs [patient-oriented evidence that matters]), is in this issue of AFP.<sup>10</sup> For a collection of articles in this series published in AFP, go to <https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/content/top-poems.html>.

## CIRCULATION, WEBSITE STATISTICS, DIGITAL CHANNELS

The circulation of AFP's print journal is more than 169,000 (Table 1). To the best of our knowledge, it is the second-largest circulation of any medical journal, based on an independent publication auditing firm.<sup>11</sup> AFP has consistently been rated the number one journal among primary care physicians.<sup>12</sup>

The AFP website received an average of about 2.8 million unique visitors per month (attributable to a unique browser or device) in 2023, making it one of the most popular online medical publications. This means that in addition to visits by members of the AAFP, the website is viewed by millions of other health care professionals and others who presumably are seeking information about various clinical conditions. Additionally, roughly 2.7 million CME quiz credits are awarded annually.

Beyond the print and website versions, many engage with our clinical content through the AFP Podcast, *Revista Médica AFP* Podcast (our Spanish-language podcast), social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, X [Twitter]), and AFP YouTube channel. We continue to build our video collection and invite

submissions. Clinical videos are peer-reviewed and provide an opportunity for residents and students to submit to the journal. Video submission instructions are available at <https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/multimedia/videos.html>.

TABLE 1	
American Family Physician Circulation and Online/Digital Statistics for 2023	
Benchmark	Number
<b>Print journal</b>	
Circulation, monthly	169,616
Average recipients of electronic table of contents, monthly	110,078
Average recipients of <i>AFP</i> Clinical Answers eNewsletter, monthly	110,996
Unique visitors to the website in 2023	28,733,164
Unique visitors to the website, monthly average	2,394,430
Total visits to the website in 2023	41,559,239
Page views in 2023	45,245,435
<b>AFP Community Blog</b>	
Total page views in 2023	292,362
<b>Podcast</b>	
<i>AFP</i> Podcast (total downloads since 2015)	7,743,232
<i>Revista Médica AFP</i> Podcast (total downloads since 2023)	14,740
<b>YouTube channel</b>	
Total subscribers	4,820
Total views	760,573
<b>Social media</b>	
Facebook followers	16,321
Instagram followers	659
X (Twitter) followers	14,858
Note: Numbers are as of May 21, 2024.	
<i>AFP</i> = American Family Physician.	
Online journal: <a href="https://www.aafp.org/afp">https://www.aafp.org/afp</a> , or through the app at <a href="https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/subscribe/app.html">https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/subscribe/app.html</a>	
Community Blog: <a href="https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/community-blog.html">https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/community-blog.html</a>	
Podcasts: <a href="https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/multimedia/podcast.html">https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/multimedia/podcast.html</a> and <a href="https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/multimedia/revistamedicapodcast.html">https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/multimedia/revistamedicapodcast.html</a> , or through the app at <a href="https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/subscribe/app.html">https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/subscribe/app.html</a>	
YouTube channel: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/AFPJournal">https://www.youtube.com/AFPJournal</a>	
Social media: @AFPJournal on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter)	

## PUBLICATION TIMELINES, ACCEPTANCE RATES, AUTHOR DEMOGRAPHICS

On average, review articles are accepted 5 to 6 months after they are submitted, which allows time for peer review, author revisions, and medical editing (Table 2). Articles are typically published 6 to 7 months after acceptance, with the goal of providing readers with a mix of article topics scheduled in each issue. Articles that go online ahead of print are typically published online within 4 to 5 months of acceptance.

To ensure comprehensive coverage of a curriculum of topics, we solicit most of the articles that are published. We circulate a “call for papers” through multiple family medicine communication platforms and post it on social media and online. Our preference is for the first author to be an experienced clinician and writer because our readership largely consists of busy physicians who rely on *AFP* for practical, evidence-based content and CME. However, congruent with *AFP*’s mission to promote health equity and scholarship in family medicine, we strive to increase diverse authorship by encouraging experienced authors to mentor coauthors, especially authors from groups that are underrepresented in medicine.<sup>13</sup> To measure our progress in diversity and mentorship, since 2021, we have been collecting anonymous demographic data after publication from authors who volunteer to share information about their gender, race, and ethnicity. This information is not used to inform decisions about submitted manuscripts and future publication.

Authors who propose unsolicited topics go through a formal approval process before submitting a manuscript for consideration. Because only 12% of proposed topics are accepted due to duplicate topics or not fitting with *AFP*’s curriculum, authors are strongly encouraged to read the *AFP* Authors’ Guide (<https://www.aafp.org/afp/authors>) before contacting us.

TABLE 2	
American Family Physician Publication Timelines and Acceptance Rates for 2023	
Benchmark	Number
<b>Average days to publication</b>	
From submission to acceptance	168 (goal: under 150)
From acceptance to publication	187 (goal: 180)
From submission to publication	355 (goal: 330)
<b>Manuscript acceptance rates</b>	
Solicited manuscript*	97%
Approved proposed manuscript†	94%
Unsolicited manuscript (no pre-approval process)	0%
*—About 96% of solicited manuscripts are ultimately submitted.	
†—Only about 12% of proposed manuscripts are approved for submission.	

## ACKNOWLEDGING PEER REVIEWERS

Peer review is an essential and valuable process for *AFP*, and we are very appreciative of the work reviewers do in helping us develop sound content for the journal. Each year, we recognize all peer reviewers for volunteering their time and highlight those who provided exceptional feedback (<https://www.aafp.org/journals/afp/reviewers/peer-reviewers/2023.html>). An archive of past *AFP* peer reviewers is available at <https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/reviewers/peer-reviewers.html>.

If you are interested in reviewing for *AFP*, please read the *AFP* Reviewers' Guide (<https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/reviewers.html>) for more information. Please also encourage specialist colleagues whom you regularly collaborate with to consider reviewing as well. We highly recommend that new reviewers find a mentor for their first review, which could include colleagues with authorship experience, department chairs and faculty, and residency directors. The AAFP has authorized CME credit for peer review of journal manuscripts (<https://www.aafp.org/credit-reporting/reporting/claim-credit>).

Next year, we will celebrate *AFP*'s 75th year of publication, which would not be possible without the dedication of our authors, editors, reviewers, and loyal readers, who all help make *AFP* the best-read journal in primary care. As always, we welcome your feedback. Please send comments to [afpjournal@aafp.org](mailto:afpjournal@aafp.org).

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Editor's Note: Dr. Sexton is editor-in-chief of *AFP*.

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