

**Request for Applications
for Position of Editor-in-Chief,
*Gastroenterology***



American Gastroenterological Association
4930 Del Ray Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20814

The American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) invites applications for the position of editor-in-chief for its flagship journal, *Gastroenterology*. The term of office is five years, beginning on July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2027.

About *Gastroenterology*

Published since 1943, *Gastroenterology* is one of the top journals in gastrointestinal and liver diseases; its 2019 impact factor is 17.373. The journal is ranked among the top biomedical journals. *Gastroenterology* delivers up-to-date and authoritative coverage of both basic and clinical gastroenterology and hepatology research.

Structure and Content

Print

Gastroenterology is published monthly in print, with an annual supplement published each January featuring state-of-the-art reviews on a clinical topic. A typical issue consists of about 330 pages containing original research, full and brief reviews and perspectives, editorials, brief communications, image challenges, graphical abstracts, commentaries, content for mentors and trainees, clinical practice guidelines, clinical practice updates and patient tools, literature and media summaries, correspondence, and continuing medical education activities. The original research is currently divided into the following categories: Clinical—Alimentary Tract; Clinical—Liver; Clinical—Pancreas; Clinical—Biliary Tract; Basic and Translational—Alimentary Tract; Basic and Translational—Liver; Basic and Translational—Pancreas; and Basic and Translational—Biliary Tract. The print version of *Gastroenterology* contains advertising in accordance with the Policy Regarding Advertising in AGA Institute Periodicals.

Online

Gastroenterology publishes its full printed content online each month via two platforms: a member/subscriber platform and an institutional platform. Both platforms are mobile optimized. Additionally, accepted articles are posted to the “Articles in Press” section of the journal’s website and are indexed on PubMed within three-to-five business days after acceptance. *Gastroenterology* offers a range of online-only content including article collections, image challenges, video abstracts, supplementary figures, tables and data sets. The journal’s social media offerings include Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and the AGA Journals Blog. *Gastroenterology* also has a mobile app. Online advertising is permitted in accordance with the Policy Regarding Advertising in AGA Institute Periodicals.

Key Journal Statistics

The journal receives approximately 3,700 overall submissions per year, approximately 60 percent of which are original research manuscripts. Seventy percent of submissions are from outside the United States. Submissions are processed by the editorial office within 1-2 business days. There is a nonrefundable \$75 submission fee to submit original research manuscripts to the journal, and \$25 to submit for the Clinical Challenges and Images section.

For manuscripts that are externally reviewed, authors typically receive decisions within 29 days of submission. The 2019 acceptance rate for both clinical and basic science manuscripts was 10 percent. There is a charge of \$100 per printed page to publish original research manuscripts in *Gastroenterology*, and AGA members receive a discount of 15 percent per page.

Circulation and Translations

Total circulation for *Gastroenterology* is over 11,145 worldwide and includes AGA members (as a benefit of AGA membership) and individual and institutional subscribers. The journal receives

approximately 216,000 monthly electronic visits. Selected journal content is translated and distributed to multiple regions throughout the world.

Organizational Structure

Board of Editors

The *Gastroenterology* board of editors currently consists of two co-editors-in-chief (EICs), three senior associate editors, 16 associate editors (AEs), 15 section editors (SEs), and two biostatisticians. The exact number of individuals in each position may be adjusted based on financial and editorial considerations, however, based on historical data trends, the AGA staff recommend a maximum of 16 AEs, including senior AEs but not including SEs. The EIC(s) and board of editors are responsible for the intellectual quality of the journal, whereas the journal's physical appearance is the responsibility of the staff and publisher, with input from the editor(s).

AEs participate in the peer-review process by assigning reviewers to manuscripts and, in cooperation with the EIC(s), making determinations regarding acceptance or rejection of manuscripts. They also provide ongoing counsel to the EIC(s) regarding the intellectual quality, policies, initiatives and direction of the journal.

SEs develop, solicit and review content specific to their sections, in cooperation with the editor(s). The biostatisticians, upon request, review manuscripts that require extensive statistical expertise.

In addition, two social media editors – one with a focus on basic content and another on clinical content – work with all AGA publications in promoting content and news online. Social media editors should not be included in your proposed board of editors.

The board of editor positions are not part of the association's managerial staff but are paid an honorarium as approved by the AGA Institute Governing Board. All positions will be required to complete the AGA Institute's Potential Conflict of Interest statement annually.

Editorial Board

Members of an independent, international editorial board serve as regular reviewers for submitted manuscripts. The editorial board members also provide counsel to the editor(s) and associate editors as needed. The EIC(s) appoints a chair of the editorial board for the duration of their term. The chair then works with the EIC(s) to appoint board members to a three-year term with option for renewal. There is no required number or limit of editorial board members.

Editorial Office and Publisher

A permanent editorial office in Bethesda, Maryland, manages the submission, solicitation, review and promotion of the journal's content. The staff is also responsible for assisting in the development, implementation and evaluation of new content, initiatives, policies and procedures. The staff works closely with *Gastroenterology's* publishing partner, Elsevier, on matters related to production, online presence, marketing and new business opportunities. An illustration and graphics team develops complex medical illustrations and redraws author-submitted line art as needed.

Authority and Reporting

The EIC(s) reports to the AGA Institute Publications Committee. Proposed changes that will significantly affect *Gastroenterology's* mission, structure, format, finances or editorial philosophy

must be reviewed and approved by the committee and, in some cases, the AGA Institute Governing Board.

The EIC(s) has sole final authority over all decisions regarding the acceptance or rejection of manuscripts for publication and all other matters related to scientific integrity. An exception is that the AGA Institute Governing Board has editorial authority over the publication of AGA Clinical Practice Guidelines, after having made the EIC(s) and staff aware of the content in advance of publication. The EIC(s) has the authority to accept or reject other AGA-generated content, including AGA Clinical Practice Updates.

The prestige and financial stability of the association are closely linked to *Gastroenterology*. Therefore, final authority over journal operations, with the exceptions noted in the preceding paragraph, rest with the AGA Institute Governing Board.

Responsibilities of the Editor(s)

General Responsibilities

The fundamental duties of this position are as follows:

1. Establish and maintain the highest standards of quality for the content and physical appearance of the journal. In doing so, the EIC(s) will work cooperatively with the board of editors, AGA staff, AGA Institute Publications Committee and Elsevier.
2. Achieve the objectives for the AGA's publishing program set forth in the strategic plans of the association and the journals.
3. Assist the AGA staff and the publisher in maintaining the physical standards and design of the publication. All design modifications must align with the AGA brand policy.
4. Ensure the relevance of *Gastroenterology* to all AGA constituencies: including basic scientists and translational and clinical investigators who study the digestive system, gastroenterology clinicians and trainees.
5. Maintain the fiscal integrity of *Gastroenterology* in cooperation with the AGA staff to ensure that the financial objectives established by the AGA Institute Governing Board are achieved. These goals will be accomplished under the operational authority and responsibility of the publications committee.
6. Increase the readership of the journal by providing direction for the editorial content and striving to enhance the quality and impact of the journal.
7. Maintain and enhance the reputation of the journal among basic scientists and clinical investigators as a vehicle for publication of their work.
8. Serve as the journal's voice to various internal and external audiences, including the media. The EIC(s) is also responsible for representing the journal at major scientific meetings in order to attract submissions.
9. Maintain the quality, efficiency, accuracy and fairness of the review process by directing the activities of the board of editors and editorial office staff.
10. Work collaboratively with the editors of the other journals in the AGA portfolio, including participating in joint quarterly teleconferences, discussing the ultimate destination for certain types of content and implementing new initiatives, policies and procedures.

Specific Responsibilities

To accomplish the foregoing, the EIC(s) will participate in the activities described below.

1. Direct the peer-review process in the following ways:
 - a) Assign new manuscripts to AEs via the online manuscript management system.
 - b) Lead a weekly conference call with the board of editors to discuss and approve preliminary decisions. The EIC(s) retains final authority over and responsibility for those decisions.

- c) Work with AGA staff to ensure that the peer review processes are efficient and fair and journal policies are enforced.
 - d) Be alert for and, in cooperation with AGA staff, manage violations of ethical policies including plagiarism, duplicate submission/publication and failure to disclose relevant conflicts of interest.
- 2. Field personally or triage as necessary to the board of editors and AGA staff all incoming communications related to journal content and publication policies or decisions. (Communications received by AGA staff will likewise be referred to the EIC(s) or others as appropriate.)
- 3. Develop the table of contents for each issue.
- 4. In cooperation with the AGA staff:
 - a) Participate in any exercises initiated by the AGA staff to change the physical quality, style and appearance of the journal. All design modifications must align with the AGA brand policy.
 - b) Suggest and evaluate new initiatives related to content (type and delivery), policies and practices.
 - c) Develop the budget for the EIC's onsite editorial office.
- 5. Attend all publications committee meetings (there are two in-person meetings, one at DDW and one in September, and teleconferences as needed).
- 6. Appoint an appropriate number of qualified associate, section and biostatistical editors (duties as described previously) and coordinate their activities, and recommend editorial board members.
- 7. Lead annual board of editors meeting at Digestive Disease Week (DDW) to review journal metrics and the publisher's report and to discuss future initiatives.
- 8. In cooperation with editorial staff and the medical illustration and graphics team, develop the content and concept for each month's cover.
- 9. In cooperation with AGA staff and editors of other AGA journals, select two fellows annually to receive training and mentorship on journal operations, as well as scientific publishing in general.

Tenure

The editorship will begin July 1, 2022, and conclude June 30, 2027. There will be a six-month transition period beginning January 1, 2022, during which the new EIC(s) will work with the current EICs and AGA and Elsevier staff to ensure a smooth transfer of duties. Responsibilities during this transition will include consulting with the existing editors; attendance of weekly board of editors meetings; and training on journal operations and policy with the AGA staff. There will also be a three-month period at the end of the EIC's term, ending September 30, 2027, where they will serve as consultants and provide consistency and guidance for the new EIC(s). This may include attendance at the first DDW following the end of their official term, to offer consultation to the new board.

AEs and SEs will have a shorter three-month onboarding period before their official term, with similar responsibilities. AEs will train with their counterparts on the outgoing board, and serve in a three-month consulting role at the end of the board's term. Transition duties of the SEs would be determined by the individual needs of each section. As an exception to this timeline, Review Editors would have a six-month onboarding period prior to their term alongside the incoming EIC(s), where they will participate in generating new topics for reviews and inviting authors.

The EIC(s) would also have the option, in an open competition with other applicants, to re compete for one additional five-year term. An EIC selection committee would refer to performance and predictive analytics gathered in cooperation with the AGA staff, as well as the

quality of new proposals, to inform their decision on whether to recommend renewal of the EIC(s) for an additional term vs. selecting a new EIC(s). Anyone approved to serve a second full term as EIC would not be permitted to reapply for a third term.

Honoraria and Expenses

The EIC(s) will receive an annual honorarium of \$40,000. Applicants are required to provide a projected budget for their office expenses, to include administrative support, express and postage, and any anticipated expenses. Other expenses such as AGA business travel and per diem will be reimbursed as per AGA policy.

The AGA staff will guide the EIC(s) in determining the amount of honoraria for the AEs, SEs and biostatisticians. The amount of honoraria will be subject to approval by the AGA Institute Governing Board.

Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate an outstanding record of scientific achievement as evidenced by publications and professional activities, and possess a comprehensive understanding of biomedical publication issues and processes, to include online submission, review and publication. Experience in the operation of a scientific journal as an EIC or AE is desirable. Annually, the EIC(s) will be required to complete the AGA Institute's Potential Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. For any manuscripts submitted to *Gastroenterology* during his or her term, the EIC(s) must adhere to the journal's Conflict of Interest Policy. Lastly, the EIC(s) must be able to devote sufficient time to *Gastroenterology* matters. This will likely necessitate relinquishing some current responsibilities and should be stated in the application.

It is anticipated that the new EIC(s) will be located at an academic institution and will hold a full-time, nationally and internationally recognized position (e.g. professor faculty-equivalent and/or major administrative leadership position).

To Apply

To be considered for this position, applicants should provide the following:

1. A current curriculum vitae.
2. A completed AGA Institute Potential Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement.
3. A summary of how you would ensure relevance of *Gastroenterology* to all AGA constituencies including basic scientists, clinical investigators, clinicians and trainees (not to exceed two pages)
4. The specific objectives you want to achieve over the duration of your term
5. Strategies to increase readership, reputation and impact factor (not to exceed two pages).
6. Your approach to maintaining the quality, accuracy and fairness of the review process (not to exceed two pages).
7. An evaluation of *Gastroenterology*'s current content, organization, physical appearance and policies, along with recommendations for change, if any (not to exceed three pages).
8. A description of the current issues facing the field of scientific publishing and how those issues might affect *Gastroenterology* (examples include pre-print servers, the push for open access business models, transparency, alternative metrics to the impact factor, predatory publishers, etc.) (not to exceed two pages)
9. A description of the number and type of associate, section and biostatistical editors deemed necessary, and the specific people planned for these positions, along with their areas of interest and the institutions with which they are affiliated. Biosketches of each

editor must be included. The application should include letters of interest/commitment from the appointees. Please note that your proposed AEs must comply with the AGA's conflict of interest policy—that is to say, they cannot serve on the boards of editors of competing journals or have co-existing major leadership positions in other major gastroenterology-related organizations. Please take this into consideration when you are selecting your AEs.

10. A budget for your office expenses.
11. Your vision for how the AGA journals (*Gastroenterology*, *CGH*, *CMGH* and *TIGE*) can work collaboratively (not to exceed one page).
12. Any other information you deem appropriate.

Review Criteria

The EIC selection committee will follow the below criteria when reviewing the applications.

1. The candidates will be evaluated in terms of reputation, experience and integrity. The EIC(s) must be recognized by the national and international research communities and be credible to basic, translational and clinical researchers. The individual(s) must be perceived as unquestionably fair-minded and must be capable of leading a strong team. The EIC(s) must be progressive in their thinking about publishing, open to change and flexible in evaluating new publishing models. The EIC(s) must be sensitive to the economics of the publication and include business considerations in their decision-making.
2. The proposed members of the board of editors will be evaluated in terms of their reputation, experience and integrity. The team will also be evaluated in terms of balance, diversity, and should broadly cover the field of gastroenterology and hepatology. It is vital that the board of editors reflects the makeup of the GI community. To that end, and to align with AGA's efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion, we strongly encourage you consider the gender, race, ethnicity, and geographic location of the individuals you select for your board. For more information on the demographic breakdown of the GI community contact Chris Lowe.
3. The EIC's vision for the publication will be evaluated in terms of the likelihood to maintain or reach its position at the top of its specialty. The challenges facing the publishing industry must be taken into consideration. A strong organizational plan should be articulated.
4. The strategic plan for the publication must be fiscally sound.

Please submit your application in a single PDF document. Email it to:
Christopher Lowe
Managing Editor, *Gastroenterology*
clowe@gastro.org
301-941-9782

Mr. Lowe is happy to answer any questions you may have.

Deadline for receipt of applications is April 1, 2021. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will be announced prior to DDW 2021.

All inquiries regarding this position are confidential.