

## Prehospital Emergency Care Editor's Report 2018

2018 saw the completion of Volume 22 of *Prehospital Emergency Care* (PEC). The six-issue volume had 794 pages, plus a 118-page Supplement (see below) which brings the total page-count to 912 for the Volume. For a historical perspective, PEC has now published 11,765 pages of EMS-focused peer-reviewed medical literature over the past 22 years! The January/February issue included 206 abstracts which were presented at the 2018 NAEMSP® Annual Scientific Assembly. There were an additional 20 abstracts published and presented in the Innovations in EMS Fellow Education session.

In February 2018 the **Fatigue in EMS Project** (Dr. Daniel Patterson, Principal Investigator) saw fulfillment in the publication of 15 articles in a PEC Supplement. This landmark project, sponsored by the US Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and in collaboration with the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), assembled experts from a wide variety of medical specialties to review the evidence and produce evidence-based guidelines for fatigue risk management in EMS. This project will have a lasting impact by providing guidance to other high-risk industries that seek to manage fatigue in the workplace based on the best available evidence.

One of the most remarkable contributions to this volume was the publication of the **Spinal Motion Restriction in the Trauma Patient - A Joint Position Statement**. This statement was mutually endorsed by The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP®). At the time of this writing the Statement had been **downloaded over 18,000** times despite only publishing online in August 2018.

In July PEC received its **2017 Impact Factor**, which had a slight decrease to 2.269. As a measure of the journal's stability, the Five-Year Impact Factor remained steady at 2.316. PEC is currently ranked **7th of the 26 Emergency Medicine journals** that are currently rated by the ISI Web of Science. PEC ranked 44/172 in the Public, Environmental, & Occupational Health category (top 25% in this broad category).

The ISI Impact Factor system is not the only measure of a journal's influence. There are other services that rank journals' impact as well. SCOPUS has an alternative method. Its Scimago system produces an "H-Index" of which PEC's increased again to 53. By this method, PEC ranks **6th out of the 78** emergency medicine journals that are ranked by SCOPUS. We continue to strive to advance in ranking. In order to accomplish this, we will need the continued support of NAEMSP® members via submission of their best work to PEC.

As of this writing, PEC was again on pace to receive a record number of submissions. PEC received 448 submissions in the first 300 days of 2018 (465 were received in all of 2017). The number of manuscripts submitted to PEC has increased every year since its inception. In 2018 we received submissions from forty-nine

different countries. In terms of peer-review, PEC has an **average time to first decision of 16 days**. The acceptance rate of papers submitted to PEC in 2018 was **22%**. This is indicative of the health of the journal quality-wise, as it remains difficult to get published in PEC (i.e. the bar for quality continues to be raised).

Some of the highlights of Volume 22 included:

### Special Contributions

Spinal Motion Restriction in the Trauma Patient - A Joint Position Statement

Fatal Wounding Pattern and Causes of Potentially Preventable Death Following the Pulse Night Club Shooting Event

Scene Safety and Force Protection in the Era of Ultra Potent Opioids

### Focus Sections

- Education and Practice (12)
- Focus on Cardiac Arrest (2)
- Focus on Pediatric EMS (2)
- International EMS (2)
- Focus on Trauma
- Military Medicine
- Focus on Stroke

### Position Statements

Defining Quality in EMS

EMS Physician-Performed Clinical Interventions in the Field

### Case Conferences

There were only two Case Conferences published in this volume of PEC. This remains a very nice forum for enabling prehospital providers and junior faculty to get published. We continue to encourage submissions to this section of the journal.

### Abstracts

- Abstracts for the 2018 NAEMSP® Scientific Assembly
- NAEMSP® Fellow Education Abstracts- Innovations in EMS Fellow Education

**Peer Reviewers:** Additional peer reviewers are always needed. This is especially true in the areas of pediatrics, trauma, education, qualitative research, EMS operations, and air medical services. Those interested should send an email of interest (citing area of expertise with a CV attached) to Dr. Menegazzi at [menegazz@pitt.edu](mailto:menegazz@pitt.edu).