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Welcome to the *American Journal of Clinical Medicine (AJCM)*. This peer reviewed journal is dedicated to improving the practice of clinical medicine by providing up to date education for today's practitioners.

The *AJCM* is the official journal of the American Association of Physicians Specialists, Inc. (AAPS), an organization dedicated to promoting the highest intellectual, moral, and ethical standards of its members, and whose diversity incorporates physicians that represent a broad spectrum of specialties including anesthesiology, dermatology, diagnostic radiology, emergency medicine, family practice, geriatric medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, psychiatry, radiation oncology and general surgery. Part of the mission of the AAPS is to provide education for its members and to promote study, research, and improvement of its various specialties. In order to further these goals, the *AJCM* invites submissions of high-quality review articles, clinical reports, case reports or original research on any topic which has potential to impact the daily practice of medicine.

Articles that appear in the *AJCM* are peer reviewed by members of the editorial board or by other experts in the appropriate field as selected by the editorial board. Publication in the *AJCM* is one of the criteria to qualify for the prestigious degree of Fellowship in one of the Academies of the AAPS.

The *AJCM* will also feature a regular section reviewing publications in other journals as an educational tool for our readers. A broad spectrum of the published literature is reviewed on a regular basis by our editorial board, and abstracts of articles of interest are presented. Other periodic features will include presentations of interesting radiographic, electrocardiogram or clinical findings. Letters to the editor commenting on published articles, or offering general comments or opinions will also be considered.

**This issue of the *AJCM* introduces a new feature, called Sounding Board (page 31). In this section a topic of interest to the practice of clinical medicine will be introduced, and readers are encouraged to write in (editor@aapsga.org) to express their thoughts and opinions. Readers are also encouraged to write in with ideas for topics for future Sounding Boards.**

Comments or suggestions from our readers are appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at editor@aapga.org.

Jeff Hersh, PhD, MD, FAAP, FACP, FAAEP

Editor-in-chief

**Cover Artwork:**

The cover photo was taken by *AJCM* Executive Editor and Section Editor Matthew S. Berry, MD, FACP, FAAEP. He took this photo of dolphins in the Bahamas last summer (2004) using a Nikonos RS underwater camera with a 13mm lens, Kodak E100s film, and ambient light.

We would like to invite any AAPS member to contribute photos for consideration as cover art for the *AJCM*.