

MISSOURI HOSPITALIST: NINE YEARS ON

Robert Folzenlogen

Correspondence: Robert Folzenlogen (rfolzenlogen@gmail.com)

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Back in 2006, when I joined the faculty at the University of Missouri as Head of the Hospitalist Service, I had come from a career in the private sector. During my first year, I thus concentrated on defining our clinical expectations, revamping the schedule and reaching out to the Specialty and Surgical Services in an effort to improve communication and consultations. While I enjoyed teaching residents and students in the clinical setting, I had little past experience (and little interest) in research and other academic ventures.

When our new Chief of General Internal Medicine (Dr. William Steinmann) arrived the following year, he encouraged me to take a more active role in some form of academic endeavor. Having long been interested in writing (I served as editor of newsletters from high school through medical school and had founded a small publishing company), I elected to launch a journal for hospitalists in Missouri.

The initial structure of *Missouri Hospitalist*, which began publication in 2008, included an article dealing with recent advances in hospital medicine, a case report highlighting interesting or unusual clinical features, a list of recent journal articles of interest to hospitalists, ID Corner (links to Infectious Disease review articles, provided by our Chief of Infectious Disease, Dr. Bill Salzer) and a calendar of upcoming conferences (both local and national) of potential interest to our readers. Created with Microsoft Publisher software, *Missouri Hospitalist* was emailed to hospitalists at our University and at both private and academic institutions throughout the State.

Interest in receiving *Missouri Hospitalist* steadily grew (with a bit of salesmanship on my part) and those who signed on were considered to be members of The *Missouri Hospitalist Society*. Those of us at the University of Missouri began to make annual presentations pertaining to Hospital Medicine at the Missouri ACP Meetings and the latter organization began to publish the journal online; those issues remain available on the Internet. Most heartening (at least from my perspective) was the increasing submission of content from hospitalists throughout the State, including a monthly link to Hospital Medicine articles provided by faculty members at Washington University. I also received requests from other institutions to include their seminar notifications on our list of upcoming conferences.

Despite the growing success of *Missouri Hospitalist*, its production took a good deal of time and the journal's publication frequency dropped from every two months to a quarterly release. When I retired from MU, in November, 2012, the editorship was taken over by a team of junior faculty members and fellows, who expanded the scope of the

journal and recruited specialists (Cardiologists, Radiologists and others) to submit content. In 2014, *Missouri Hospitalist* morphed into the *Journal of Academic Hospital Medicine* and currently lives on in that form.

I am proud of what our Division created back in 2008 and am even more pleased that its purpose has been sustained, its content has steadily improved and its primary audience has remained engaged. After all, we share a common commitment to better serve our patients by keeping up with the latest advances in hospital medicine.

My thanks to Dr. Christian Rojas for soliciting this brief history of the journal and I wish him well as he takes over as its new editor. A fond hello to all my past colleagues at the University of Missouri.

Editorial note: The name of the journal has changed to *American Journal of Hospital Medicine* as of January 2017.