Announcing the New JAMANeurology.com

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This week, JAMA Neurology and The JAMA Network launch a new online platform at jamaneurology.com. We have co-created the sites with you—our users—combining data about how the sites are used with extensive input from clinician and author colleagues to redesign every page focusing on our most-trafficked article pages. We have aimed to make the platform more usable, discoverable, and faster on any device. Here are some highlights:

Abstracts

Article Abstracts are the only article component many people ever see or read, but in an era of social media posts and mobile screen notifications, they are often long and too detailed for many readers. We now supplement Abstracts with briefer summaries that contextualize the content. These Key Points function as mini-Abstracts, summarizing in 100 words an article’s Question, Findings, and Meaning. Links above the Abstract give users ready access to multimedia article summaries and author interviews that are accessible during workout routines or hands-free commutes. Links above and beneath the Abstract give users equally quick access to Editorials that explain why an article is important, why it was published, and what questions it leaves unanswered. These unobtrusive changes offer alternative ways to consume summary content quickly, within 0 to 2 clicks of the Abstract (Figure 1).

Full-Text

Standard online journal article page design places Tables, Figures, multimedia, and references within the flow of articles, making long-form reading—always difficult online—even longer. We have dismantled that linear format for longer-form research and review articles and introduce a split-screen presentation that presents article text (on the left) alongside Tables, Figures, multimedia, and other related material in tabs (on the right) that users can directly access from text links and scroll through independently (Figure 2). On desktops and laptops the article presents as if 2 browser windows are open at the same time, placing more article elements into a single view and minimizing the number of window enlargements and minimizations and browser “back button” clicks typically needed to explore article links. Perhaps most useful, users can now view full-text articles and Tables and Figures side by side without clicking or scrolling.

Personalization

Amazon, Netflix, and other media giants have set contemporary standards for “precision publishing”—the right content for the right user at the right time. The new website gets JAMA Neurology into the game for medical content. Each article now has “You May Also Like” article links based on clinical topics of articles you have previously visited on the site. The article topics will be as broad or as narrow as your interests and introduce you to articles and reviews from JAMANetwork journals you might not regularly read.

Additional Improvements

We have made other improvements you told us are important. We made the site faster by eliminating unnecessary code so that each page loads quickly. Audio and video, a mainstay of electronic publishing and an increasing investment at The JAMA Network, are now much easier to find and play. Each file has its own dedicated webpage and will appear in onsite and general search listings. All articles are now published to be more discoverable through Google search. The site is designed to perform well on your smartphone and tablet devices. And we have reorganized JAMA Network-wide collections into a more focused, clinically intuitive set, which you can access from any article page by clicking on topic (key word) “balloons.”

The effort to modernize jamaneurology.com required a sustained investment of time, thought, personnel, and capital. We hope the many changes in the new platform signal that the too-prevalent notion that electronic publishing is an effortless by-product of traditional print publishing (“It’s just putting the articles online, right?”) is an artifact of the past. Publishing online requires accounting for search, indexing, analytics, and other...
ecosystems that simply do not apply to print publishing. Whether readers, authors, institutions, or funders support the costs of publishing, publishing to a contemporary online standard—making medical science discoverable, mobile, consumable, and social—is a complex, full-time, and ongoing program that should be a part of conversations about the standards and costs of how to make science more accessible and open.

We have thought through every pixel of every page of the new platform. We believe we are delivering a better experience but surely have gotten some things wrong or overlooked others. Websites, like cars, depreciate rapidly the instant proud new owners take possession of them, so we are committed to a plan-do-study-act quality improvement process: having planned and launched the site we will now closely watch what is working and what is not, listen to and solicit comments from our many users, and revise the site continually and appropriately. We encourage users and readers to visit our FAQ website and give us feedback at jamams@jamanetwork.com.

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JAMA Neurology at the Forefront, 1997-2016
Roger N. Rosenberg, MD

It has been an honor and privilege to be the Editor of JAMA Neurology (formerly Archives of Neurology) and to witness and document the progress in clinical neurology and neuroscience over the past 20 years. The journal, while maintaining diversity in content, emphasized the defining of the biological, biochemical, genetic, and genomic (neuromic) basis of neurological diseases. Neurotherapeutics and clinical trials have been dominant themes.

In 1997, Stanley B. Prusiner, MD, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, the first neurologist to receive this high honor. The Nobel Assembly cited Prusiner for showing that “prions possess an innate capacity to convert their...