**2019 ISMTE Award Winners**

**Award for Achievement or Innovation**
Brook Ashley Simpson  
Managing Editor/Journals Social Media Manager  
American Gastroenterological Association

Brook Simpson serves as Managing Editor and Journals Social Media Manager at the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA). Recently in this role, Brook undertook a very innovative project to help disseminate the research the AGA publishes in its journals to clinical practitioners. Brook worked with the journals' Editors-in-Chief to select the top clinical-research papers from 2018. She then asked the authors of those papers to briefly summarize the findings, focusing on what they mean for patient care and how they will impact clinical practice in the field of gastroenterology. These summaries were included in the hardcopy supplement to the AGA's postgraduate course, held at its annual meeting. There were over 3,000 registrants of the course. The overarching goal of these summaries was to help translate research to patient care, which is a major goal of the AGA's strategic plan. Ultimately, the AGA wants to ensure that research informs clinical practice. Also, this new product could be monetized and serve as a potential new source of revenue for the organization in the future. Brook's efforts on this project demonstrate her commitment to innovative thinking and how, with a little creativity, we can bring the work we do as managing editors full circle, putting the research we publish to use. This project was clearly out of the scope of Brook's normal job and illustrates her ingenuity that helps extend scholarly work into everyday life.

"It is an honor to accept this year's ISMTE award for achievement or innovation. Working closely with my colleagues at the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) to develop this project was an exciting adventure. Knowing that the research we publish in our journals may have a positive effect on patient care is a strong motivator for my interest in the field of biomedical publishing. Creating a new product to directly enhance the translation of science into clinical practice was therefore a pleasure to produce. ISMTE has always felt like a home to me. I vividly recall attending the inaugural meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. My colleagues and I weren't sure what to expect from this new Society, but by the end of the day it was clear that we'd found an engaged community of editorial office professionals that would prove to be an invaluable resource in the years to come. I am deeply grateful to my scholarly publishing peers for selecting me for this recognition."

**Early Career Award**
Brittany Krysinski  
Editor & Writer  
Advanced Correctional Healthcare

Brittany is an excellent candidate first and foremost due to the fact that her current workload includes editing policies, instructions, medical trainings, client communications, blogs, social media posts, and more. Through various job titles, she has worked in a hybrid position that supports not only the Human Resources department but also the Marketing and Training departments. Essentially anyone goes to her when their vision cannot be replicated in the format they want, or they need a creative marketing or publication piece created or edited. Brittany began with Advanced Correctional Healthcare almost five years ago and came in with an attitude of "how can I help?". She did not overstep management, but rather, went out of her way to help the executives and directors understand the reasons why certain tasks were important and necessary to review. Since that time, she has earned the trust of the executive team, which is not something to be taken lightly in the field of corrections, where we often speak on confidential and sensitive matters. Further, Brittany has taught herself to create informational images and videos, complete with grammatically perfect scripts, all to benefit the company. She naturally leads this initiative, though it was never the intent of her role. She intuitively knows what must be done and does it. Her work
speaks volumes and has drawn attention to the importance of an editor. It is rare to find individuals who selflessly offer to take on more work just so another can feel a sense of relief about temporarily stepping away, but Brittany does it, and her co-workers come back to work that has been improved by her input. Brittany has been instrumental in keeping our company in line with the changing world. Her creative spirit has produced dozens of well-written, clear products across various platforms. I look forward to seeing Brittany grow in her role as she continues to successfully encourage herself and her colleagues to work to a higher level.

“My work can be an isolating position. As a writer and editor, if I’m doing my job well, my presence in a text goes unnoticed to readers. This makes the ISMTE Early Career Award particularly meaningful to me. I am so appreciative for the acknowledgement and for ISMTE, where I can connect with others in the editing community who understand and can help further my skills. Thank you!”

Christy Collins is a writer and the Open Access Portfolio Manager for Humanities & Social Sciences at Routledge/Taylor & Francis, based in Melbourne. She has worked as the Academic Relations Manager for Elsevier, based in Amsterdam and in a variety of university-based roles in Australia and the Netherlands. She has broad interests and has worked in research roles in Epidemiology, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Geography and has a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Tasmania.

See Christy’s award-winning essay in the August issue of EON.

2019 Poster Awards

1st Place Poster
Quantitative Objective Measuring Tool for Editor and Reviewer Rigour
Authored by: Noel McGlinchey, Associate Managing Editor, Content Review, and Dr. Thomas Gaston, Managing Editor, Content Review, Wiley

2nd Place Poster
Triage This—Creating a More Efficient Workflow
Authored by: Katie Murphy, MA, Social Media Manager, and Jan Higgins, PhD, Managing Editor, The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

Ira Salkin Scholarship
Christy Collins, PhD
Open Access Portfolio Manager, Humanities & Social Sciences
Routledge/Taylor & Francis, Australasia
Interview with an Award Winner: Brook Ashley Simpson

What was your reaction when you found out you were receiving this award?
I thought the email was spam when I first saw it in my inbox! I couldn’t have been more surprised when it registered as “real” to me. I felt (and continue to feel) so immensely grateful for the nomination and to have been selected for this award.

What does this award mean to you?
I was nominated for my work in creating a new product to directly enhance the translation of the research we publish in our journals into clinical practice. This project was a result of creative thinking—how could we more directly affect the care of patients based on the work of our authors? Being acknowledged for thinking outside the box and trying something new is an absolute honor.

What role has ISMTE played in your professional life?
ISMTE has felt like a professional home to me since the inaugural meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. I’ve enjoyed contributing articles to EON, creating educational resources like the microlearning video on social media strategy for journals, and now serving as a member on the Poster Committee. Each of these activities pushed me outside my comfort zone of day-to-day journal management, and the growth I’ve experienced because of those leaps of faith is immeasurable. ISMTE has also been a valuable resource for learning and troubleshooting, both at the annual meetings and via the discussion forum. I can’t imagine being a managing editor and not having this Society in my life!

Which professional accomplishment in your career or with ISMTE are you most proud of?
Other than this award, I’m very proud of the social media strategy video that myself and my colleagues Ryan Farrell and Xander Vaeth made. It was a fun project to work on together, and the final product is professional and informative.

Finally, what advice do you have for new ISMTE members or those just starting their careers in the field?
As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Always do what you’re afraid to do.” The projects, ideas, and volunteer opportunities that intimidated me at the start are invariably the ones that led to the most professional growth and personal satisfaction by the end. Push yourself outside the comfort zone of your routine work and see what good may come from it!

Interview with Poster Winners: Noel McGlinchey and Thomas Gaston

What was your reaction when you found out you were receiving this award?
Well, we knew it was a good piece of research and based upon a published peer-reviewed article, so we were quite hopeful of getting our poster accepted, but we were totally bowled over by winning first prize. It was totally unexpected and, perhaps, a real indication of how useful this new tool might be.

What does this award mean to you?
It’s always nice to win awards, but it’s particularly sweet when it’s something that has taken up so much time and thought. It feels like a real validation of what we have done. I feel really proud.

What role has ISMTE played in your professional life?
I last attended a conference a few years ago, and I found the insights from presentations of posters really helpful in developing my understanding of the peer-review process. On top of that, the interactions with fellow delegates with their stories and opinions really added another level. I also make regular use of ISMTE resources, such as procedural workflows, so ISMTE is a really important part of developing my understanding as a peer-review practitioner.
Which professional accomplishment in your career or with ISMTE are you most proud of?

Well, there are so many things I have done in peer review of which I am proud. It’s such an important service for science, and when a particularly good article or special issue is published, it’s impossible not to feel proud of one’s part in that. That’s a regular thing and almost a constant—so overall, it’s that ongoing input of which I feel most proud.

Finally, what advice do you have for new ISMTE members or those just starting their careers in the field?

Always try to put yourself in the authors’ shoes. Whatever we do, however we do it, we should always try to do our best for authors, and even when a decision is ‘reject,’ we should always consider how we can make that experience as valuable for them as possible. Without authors we’d have no journals.
Interview with Poster Winners: Jan Higgins and Katie Murphy

What was your reaction when you found out you were receiving this award?

JH: Delighted! It’s always nice to be recognized by your peers.

KM: Honored to have our work be considered as a practice other editorial offices can potentially utilize.

What does this award mean to you?

JH: Honestly, it stretches my professional development budget further by paying for attendance at the ISMTE North American conference (and if I can manage to time a visit “home” to Scotland in October, then I’ll also take up the chance to attend the European conference free). It means that both my co-author, Katie Murphy, and I can attend another professional meeting we normally wouldn’t be able to.

KM: Outside of being recognized for the time and effort put forth into developing and reporting on an editorial office initiative to improve workflow, the award means that our peers feel that it is important work that we are doing as well.

What role has ISMTE played in your professional life?

JH: Several actually. But I’ll choose to highlight that it has made me feel part of a community. Being a managing editor can be a lonely existence. I used to work alone in a university, surrounded by people, but not one of them understood my job. I had lots of colleagues but no one to chat to about work. Now I’m home-based and that is even more isolating. Until ISMTE, there wasn’t a good fit in...
terms of professional societies and certainly not one that understood the nature of my solitary professional existence. ISMTE covers all aspects of my job and professional development and delivers the resources I need in a way I need. It also introduced me to a group of people who are knowledgeable, generous with their experience, and have become some of my best friends.

**KM:** Becoming a member of ISMTE, as a remote employee, has given me the opportunity to stay engaged and informed in the community of professionals working in scholarly publishing. I have also had the privilege of serving as the Social Media Committee Chair and now the Co-Chair of the Marketing Committee for ISMTE and gaining a greater sense of all that ISMTE has to offer its membership.

Which professional accomplishment in your career or with ISMTE are you most proud of?

**JH:** Being involved in starting the local group in RTP for ISMTE was very satisfying. The Chapel Hill-Durham-Raleigh area has a strong concentration of ISMTE members, so we had a good base to start with. But getting people together monthly just to have a chat about work (see above!) was exactly what I needed. And now these local group meetings have developed into real educational and networking opportunities.

**KM:** This is the second poster that we have submitted to ISMTE and the second award we have received; last year our poster was voted as the fan favorite. The ability to see and share work that is being undertaken across editorial offices means that we are accomplishing the initiative to always be looking ahead and working on processes to improve editorial office functionality across scholarly publications.

Finally, what advice do you have for new ISMTE members or those just starting their careers in the field?

**JH:** Use ISMTE for what it was intended—a network of peers. The resources of the members of ISMTE are vast, and though ISMTE is doing a great job in getting that “on paper” and sharing it with other members, the resource is deep. Ask a question on the discussion forum—I’ll be shocked if someone doesn’t know the answer, or at very least, knows someone else who does.

**KM:** Agreed. ISMTE is a resource for professionals and a network of peers that have enriched my career.

---

**News from ISMTE**

**ISMTE announces endorsement of AMWA—EMWA—ISMPP joint position statement on predatory publishing**

The joint position statement written by the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), European Medical Writers Association (EMWA), and International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP) was published on July 29 in Current Medical Research and Opinion. Read the full statement [here](#).
Call for Volunteers

Looking for a way to get more involved with ISMTE? Two volunteer opportunities are now available.

**Join the ISMTE Industry Advisory Board (IAB).** ISMTE consults members of the IAB on industry concerns and how ISMTE can best serve its members. The IAB meets quarterly by phone. ISMTE members who work with a vendor or commercial publisher would provide valuable input. If you are interested, please contact Tony Alves at talves@ariessys.com.

**Join the Asian-Pacific Meeting Planning Committee.** The committee is looking for 2 to 3 new members to help plan next March’s meeting (March 2-3, Melbourne, Australia). The commitment would be one to two calls a month and time working on sessions, inviting speakers, etc. between scheduled calls. Please contact Julie Nash (julie@jjeditorial.com) or Tony Alves (talves@ariessys.com) to join.

If neither of these specific volunteer opportunities interest you, but you do wish to volunteer, please let me know (Alethea Gerding, agerding@prosthodontics.org), and I will help you find the right opportunity.

COMING SOON

The AMA Manual of Style, 11th Edition

A must-have resource for anyone involved in medical, health, and scientific publishing, the new edition includes:

- Comprehensive guidance for authors, editors, and publishers on defining and addressing a wide variety of ethical and legal issues
- A complete update to preferred usage, grammar, and punctuation for clear, precise prose
- Standards for common and new terms used in medical and related health and scientific disciplines

Available for preorder at oup.com/academic amamanualofstyle.com