

# Development of a Journal for Medical Students

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## 1. Introduction

- Currently there is no journal in the United Kingdom that solely publishes the work of medical students.
- Commitment to research has become increasingly important for medical students and the General Medical Council encourages research at all stages of education.
- Job application criteria now include points awarded for pub-med indexed publications.
- Many medical schools have changed their curricula to adapt to this change.
- Now many medical students conduct a research project as part of their curriculum.
- Therefore, there is a clear need for an outlet for this research.

## 2. The Barriers To Publication

- The projects medical students complete are often audits, small research projects.
- Medical students have to compete with established researchers.
- Therefore, many of these projects are not published.

## 3. The Solution

- The National Student Association of Medical Research (NSAMR) is a student run, Wellcome trust funded organisation.
- NSAMR founded the NSAMR Journal in 2016.
- The NSAMR Journal will reduce barriers to publication through:
  - RDA recommendation incorporation
  - Utilising links to our 25 affiliated UK medical schools
  - Development of a national team of student peer reviewer

## 4. Aim

- Develop a free to publish, open access journal authored, reviewed and edited by medical students that incorporates RDA recommendations and latest technologies.

## 5. Journal Design

- An example of the journal layout is presented in **Figure 1**.

### NSAMR Journal

#### EXAMPLE OF A NSAMR JOURNAL ARTICLE

Byrne M, Author B, Author C.

Details | View

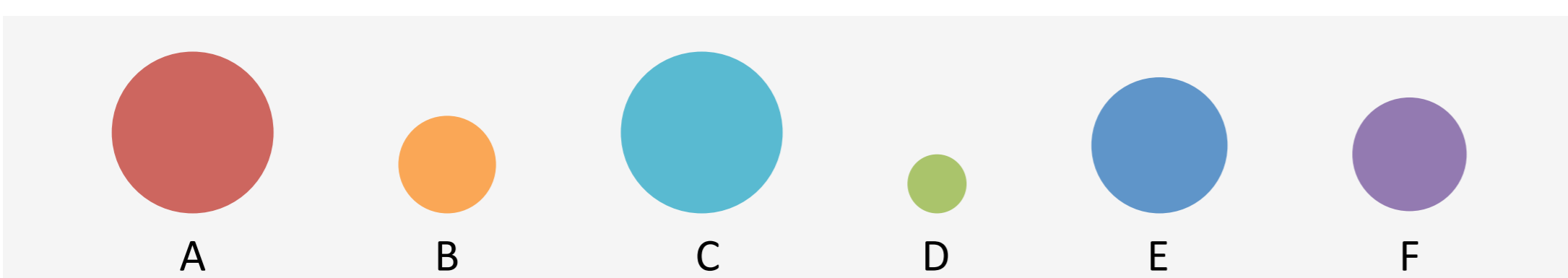
Contents | Abstract | Introduction | **Methods** | Results | Discussion  
Conclusions | Figures and Tables | References

#### Subheading

Viewers can select which section they wish to view and the following text displayed is from the selected section only.  
Clicking "View" above the section menu allows Readers to view the article in the conventional online format or as a downloadable PDF.  
Article text with hyperlinks and embedded figures and tables presented here.  
Viewers can select other figures and tables in the figure viewer below (**Figure 1**).

Figures | Tables | Multimedia

Figure 1 | Figure 2 | Figure 3



**Figure 1.** Viewers may expand to full description by clicking this short description.

References for selected section are presented below each article section. All references contain embedded hyperlinks which link to PubMed.<sup>1</sup>

#### References

1. Author Name, Article Title, Journal, Year.

**Figure 1.** The NSAMR journal example layout.

## 6. Journal Design

- The article presents the most important details.
- Additional detail can be accessed by moving the mouse over key text (**Figure 2**).
- By hiding details which can clutter the article it allows viewers to quickly read the article while maintaining the information if Readers wish to access it.

#### EXAMPLE OF AN NSAMR JOURNAL ARTICLE

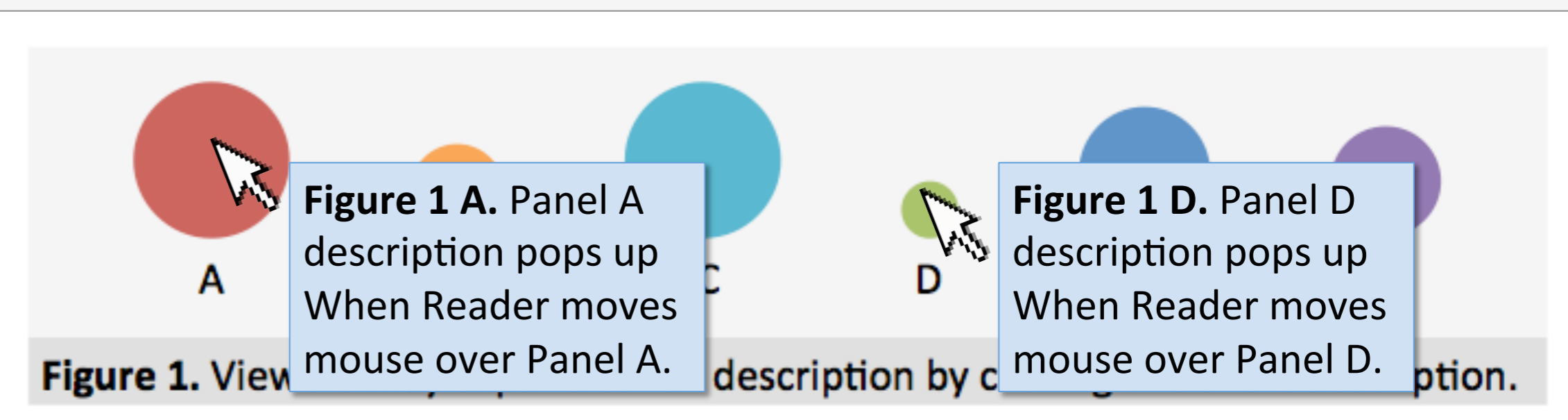
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Volume 1    DOI: 10.100/extra123  
Issue 1  
Version 1    Date 01/08/2016  
Status: Published

**Figure 2.** Access to detailed information.

- Figures and tables are embedded using a figure viewer.
- Readers can move their mouse over the figure sections and the linked description can be seen (**Figure 3**).
- The figure viewer allows the incorporation of interactive figures and multimedia.



**Figure 3.** Figure panel descriptions.

- To reduce barriers to publication NSAMR Journal has involved its 25 affiliated UK medical schools to recruit peer reviewers and to encourage manuscript submission.
- Additionally, article metrics and social media platforms must be incorporated to increase medical student participation.

#### Metrics

Citations	2	Shares	3
Views	23	Tweets	4
Downloads	4	Comments	2
Share			

**Figure 4.** NSAMR Journal article metrics

## 7. Future Work

- A number of tools which could be used by NSAMR Journal have been identified. These are displayed in **Table 1**.

Tool	Role
Datcite	Identification of DOIs.
Crossmark	Ensures up to date valid references and DOIs.
Thor Project	ORCID integration.
Crossfund	Standardised funding data formatting.
iThenticate	Plagiarism detection software.
OpenAire	Deposit for open access articles.
PKP journal software	Open access, free, journal system.
Journal search integration	Finds similar articles from other journals for Readers

**Table 1.** Areas to address in future journal development.

- Other areas to address include integration of the current work, implementation of the peer review and submission process, and development of open review systems.

## 8. Benefits

#### For medical students

- Education in manuscript writing, submission and peer review processes.
- Reduced competition from established researchers.
- Students can be inspired by others, with impact increased via social media.
- New researchers are introduced to open science at the earliest possibility.

#### For RDA and the research community

- RDA can trial its new publishing recommendations in a low risk format.
- Research is not wastefully reproduced.
- Research commonly not published will be introduced to the public domain.