



# The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

## A SNAPSHOT

The *New England Journal of Medicine* is the most widely read, cited, and influential general medical journal in the world, and the oldest continuously published medical periodical. It is close to completing its second century of service to the medical community. Throughout its existence, the *Journal* has published the very best research at the interface of biomedical science and clinical practice, presented in an understandable and clinically useful format.

In 1811, John Collins Warren, a Boston physician and scholar, collaborated with his friend, James Jackson, to establish the first medical journal in New England. The first quarterly edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery and the Collateral Branches of Medical Science* was published in Boston in January 1812. Sixteen years later, after merging with the *Boston Medical Intelligencer*, it became the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, and weekly publication began. The Massachusetts Medical Society purchased it in 1921 for \$1. In 1928, it was renamed the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The *Journal* has published reports from the frontiers of medical science and practice since its early days. The *Journal* documented the first public demonstration of ether anesthesia in 1846, the first full description of a spinal-disk rupture in 1934, and the first comprehensive study of early childhood leukemia in 1948. More recent articles include some of the earliest research on AIDS and advances in the treatment of heart disease and have addressed issues such as the medical implications of a nuclear war, large-scale smallpox vaccination, SARS and the H5N1 virus.

Throughout its history, the *Journal* has employed a highly rigorous peer-review and editing process to evaluate manuscripts for scientific accuracy, novelty, and importance. The editors have set policies to ensure that authors disclose their financial associations and that those financial associations do not influence published content. The *Journal's* methodical and stringent rules in this regard, together with its publication process, significantly contribute to its reputation as the world's leading medical periodical.

The *Journal's* influence has grown well beyond the Boston environs, transforming it into an international forum. Today, more than 500,000 people in 177 countries read it each week. It has been accessible on the Internet since 1996. Free online access is available in 120 lower-income countries, and full text of research articles is free to all six months after publication. More than half of the research reports submitted to the *Journal* originate from outside the U.S.

Readers consider the *Journal* the “gold standard” for the latest research and best practices in medicine. It is committed to maintaining that reputation and continues to adapt to its readers' needs while maintaining its integrity and traditions.

The *Journal* is cited more often in scientific literature than any other medical journal, and in 1978, became the only American medical journal ever to receive the Polk Award for journalistic merit.