

From WJPN to JIMPC: Embracing the Continuum of Maternal–Child Health

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Running Title: WJPN to JIMPC: Embracing Maternal–Child Health

Abstract

The launch of the Journal of Integrated Maternal and Pediatric Care (JIMPC) marks the formal transition from the World Journal of Peri & Neonatology and reflects a broader scientific vision centered on the continuum of maternal–child health. This editorial describes the rationale for expanding the journal’s scope from a primarily perinatal and neonatal focus to an integrated platform covering preconception, pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence. It underscores the importance of the developmental origins of health and disease framework and highlights current global challenges including environmental exposures, climate change, and persistent health inequities. The editorial also outlines JIMPC’s commitment to rigorous double-blind peer review, adherence to ethical standards, diamond open access publishing, and the pursuit of Scopus/PubMed indexing. By bridging disciplines and emphasizing evidence that matters to clinicians, researchers, and policy-makers, JIMPC aims to serve as a transformative venue for advancing maternal, fetal, neonatal, and pediatric health. The editorial concludes with an invitation to authors and readers to contribute to this integrated vision of care across generations.

Keywords: Maternal Health, Child Health, Maternal-Child Health Services

This issue marks a defining moment in the history of our journal. After nearly a decade of publication as the *World Journal of Peri & Neonatology (WJPN)*, we are proud to introduce the *Journal of Integrated Maternal and Pediatric Care (JIMPC)*, a new identity, a broader scope, and a deeper commitment to the health of women, children, and families across the entire life course.

This is not merely a change of title. It is a recognition that the boundaries we have historically drawn between maternal health, fetal medicine, neonatology, and pediatrics are artificial. In reality, health is continuous. The biology of the placenta shapes the neonate; the health of the mother shapes the infant; the environment of early childhood shapes the adolescent; and the conditions of adolescence shape the next generation of parents. The well-being of one generation is inseparable from the health of the next [1–3].

This vision is firmly grounded in the developmental origins of health and disease (DOHaD) framework [1, 2]. The evidence is now overwhelming that exposures during preconception, pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood have lifelong consequences. From environmental toxicants such as organophosphate esters affecting gestational duration and neurodevelopment [4, 5], to the influence of maternal nutrition on genomic imprinting [3], the scientific literature consistently reminds us that the earliest moments of life are biologically the most consequential. Indeed, the global maternal-child health community has increasingly shifted its language from “survive” to “thrive” and now to “transform,” reflecting an understanding that optimal health is not merely the absence of disease, but the realization of full developmental potential across generations.

JIMPC is designed to serve as a home for research that bridges these domains. Our expanded scope now encompasses the full continuum from preconception through adolescence up to age 18. We welcome original research, reviews, clinical trials, case reports, and methodological studies in maternal health, fetal medicine, neonatology, all pediatric subspecialties, nursing, midwifery, public health, mental health, nutrition, and health policy. We are particularly interested in work that crosses



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disciplines, integrates perspectives, or addresses the social and environmental determinants of health.

The global maternal-child health landscape demonstrates why this integrated approach is more urgent than ever. Despite significant reductions in maternal and child mortality over recent decades, unacceptable inequities persist, and new threats continue to emerge. Climate change is now a maternal-child health crisis, with rising temperatures associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes and increased pediatric emergency department visits [6, 7]. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and widened disparities in maternal and child outcomes while also revealing the long-term consequences of viral infections during pregnancy [8, 9]. Meanwhile, new technologies, from artificial intelligence and mobile health platforms to personalized medicine (precision health), clinical prediction models, and clinical decision support systems (CDSS), offer both promise and complexity for the future of care delivery [10, 11].

Against this backdrop, JIMPC aspires to be more than a repository of papers. We aim to be a forum where clinicians, researchers, policy makers, and public health professionals can find evidence that matters, insights that cross-traditional boundaries, and analyses that reflect the complexity of real families in real environments.

Our commitment to quality and ethics remains unchanged. All submissions undergo rigorous double-blind peer review. As a diamond open access journal, we charge no fees to authors or readers, ensuring that both the production and consumption of knowledge are equitable. We are actively pursuing COPE membership and indexing in Scopus and PubMed, steps that will expand the visibility and impact of the research we publish.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the editorial board members, reviewers, authors, and readers who supported WJPN through its formative years. Your trust and contributions built the foundation upon which JIMPC now stands. We also thank our colleagues at the Mother and Newborn Health Research Center and Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Sciences for their continued support.

To our future authors: we invite you to submit your strongest work. Whether your research addresses the molecular mechanisms of disease, the epidemiology of disparities, the implementation of health interventions, or the lived experiences of families, JIMPC is your platform.

To our future readers: we hope the pages of JIMPC will inform your practice, stimulate your thinking, and inspire your own contributions to the health of mothers, children, and communities worldwide.

The journey from WJPN to JIMPC is complete. The larger journey, toward integrated, equitable, and transformative maternal-child health, has only just begun.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation Full term

AI	Artificial intelligence
CDSS	Clinical decision support systems
COPE	Committee on Publication Ethics
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DOHaD	Developmental Origins of Health and Disease
JIMPC	Journal of Integrated Maternal and Pediatric Care
WJPN	World Journal of Peri & Neonatology

Authors' Declarations

Conflict of interest

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Author Contributions

S.H. conceptualized and wrote the editorial at the request of the Editor-in-Chief.

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