

Statement of Human and Animal Rights

When reporting experiments on human subjects, authors must state in the manuscript whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2008 (fifth revision). Authors must also specifically state in the methods section if IRB approval was obtained and provide the ClinicalTrials.gov number assigned to the study. When reporting experiments on animals, authors must state whether the institutional and national guides for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed and if Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval was obtained.

Statement of Informed Consent

Patients have a right to privacy that should not be infringed upon without informed consent. Identifying information or details in text or photos, including patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, will not be published in the *Ochsner Journal* unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent/guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires that a patient who is identifiable be shown the manuscript to be published. A copy of that informed consent must be submitted to the *Ochsner Journal* with the manuscript, and the article must specify that informed consent was obtained.

Statement of Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest exists when an author (or the author's institution), reviewer, or editor has financial or personal relationships that inappropriately influence his or her actions. The potential for conflict of interest can exist whether or not an individual believes that the relationship affects his or her scientific judgment. Financial relationships (such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony) are the most easily identifiable conflicts of interest and the most likely to undermine the credibility of the *Ochsner Journal* and the authors. The *Ochsner Journal* requires all authors to submit a Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships with all submissions.



EXCELLENCE

Through Clinical Training and Continuing Education

The following Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and American Board of Medical Specialties Maintenance of Certification (ABMS MOC) competency areas are addressed in articles throughout this issue of the *Ochsner Journal*.

Patient Care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Medical Knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and cognate (eg, epidemiological and social-behavior) sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement that involves investigation and evaluation of one's own patient care, appraisal and assimilation of scientific evidence, and improvements in patient care.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their families, and other health professionals.

Professionalism as manifested through a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

Systems-Based Practice as manifested by actions that demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of healthcare and the ability to effectively call on system resources to provide care that is of optimal value.

