



Advancing pathology through sixty volumes: reflections and future directions

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INTRODUCTION

The publication of Volume 60 of the *Journal of Pathology and Translational Medicine* (JPTM) represents a distinguished scholarly milestone—one that invites both commemoration and renewed commitment. Sixty volumes of continuous publication embody more than chronological achievement; they reflect decades of scientific effort, organizational dedication, and a sustained aspiration to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of pathology.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL REFLECTION

The origins of JPTM date to 1967, when *The Korean Journal of Pathology* was founded as the official journal of the Korean Society of Pathologists [1,2]. For many years, it served as the primary venue for surgical pathology and experimental pathology research within Korea. In response to the growing importance of cytology as a diagnostic discipline, the Korean Journal of Cytopathology was launched in 1990, and the two journals were published in parallel for nearly two decades [3].

A major structural transformation occurred in 2009, when the two journals were unified into a single publication representing both the Korean Society of Pathologists and the Korean Society for Cytopathology [3]. As part of the merger agreement, the unified journal retained the name *The Korean Journal of Pathology*, preserving continuity and reflecting the longer pub-

lishing history of the parent title [3]. A dual editorial leadership system was introduced, with each society appointing its own Editor-in-Chief—one responsible for manuscripts in surgical and experimental pathology, and the other responsible for manuscripts in cytopathology [3]. This structure ensured a balanced representation of both disciplines. The two academic societies also agreed to jointly support publication and operational costs in a 7:3 ratio, reflecting the proportional distribution of content.

A significant milestone in international visibility came earlier, when the journal was indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) with Volume 41, Issue 1 in 2007 [4], a status maintained through Volume 47, Issue 6 in 2013. Although the journal was later removed from the SCIE list, this experience underscored the importance of heightened editorial rigor and deeper international engagement.

A series of transformative changes followed. The adoption of an all-English format in 2011 broadened international accessibility and encouraged global submissions. In 2015, the journal adopted its present title, the *Journal of Pathology and Translational Medicine* (JPTM), signaling an expanded scope encompassing pathology, molecular diagnostics, and translational science. In 2017, JPTM was indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), reinforcing its growing international standing and improving its discoverability within global scholarly databases.

These developments were not merely administrative adjustments; instead, they mirrored broader shifts across pathology, including the rise of molecular diagnostics, integrated trans-

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lational research, and the adoption of advanced imaging and computational technologies. Throughout these transitions, the journal refined its identity to reflect the evolving scientific landscape. Notably, since its inaugural issue, JPTM has upheld an uninterrupted tradition of timely publication, releasing every issue on schedule for six decades—an achievement made possible by the sustained dedication of its editorial leadership and contributing societies.

Now in Volume 60, JPTM stands on 60 years of continuous publication. Recent progress reflects steady and measurable growth. The journal is currently indexed in ESCI and has achieved a 2024 Journal Impact Factor of 3.0 and a 2024 CiteScore of 3.4. These metrics indicate that JPTM's publications are increasingly cited by researchers worldwide and that their relevance within the global pathology community continues to deepen.

In addition to these measurable indicators of growth, the journal's trajectory over the past 60 years has been significantly shaped by the dedication and scholarly leadership of its Editors-in-Chief (Table 1). Their collective efforts have guided JPTM through major transitions, including the integration of cytopathology, the unification of the two journals in 2009, the shift to an all-English format, the adoption of the current title, and its evolution into a globally recognized open-access platform. The continuity, stability, and integrity of JPTM are largely due to the vision, commitment, and stewardship of these individuals.

As JPTM continues to strengthen its scientific presence, it does so within a broader publishing ecosystem marked by substantial geographic imbalances.

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF JPTM IN A WESTERN-DOMINATED PUBLISHING WORLD

Although numerous pathology journals exist worldwide, the global publishing environment remains heavily concentrated in North America and Western Europe, where long-established academic societies and commercial publishers shape both editorial standards and scientific priorities. This concentration has notable implications for researchers outside these regions, particularly those in Asia, who often face structural barriers to gaining representation in high-impact Western journals. Differences in disease epidemiology, clinical practice patterns, research priorities, and writing conventions can reduce the likelihood that regionally meaningful studies are prioritized

or accepted. The rapid growth of biomedical research in Asia, driven by large patient populations, diverse disease profiles, and advancing technological capabilities, often outpaces the capacity of Western-centered publication systems to accommodate it.

Economic barriers add further inequities. The global shift to open-access publishing has increased scientific accessibility, yet the associated article processing charges are frequently prohibitive for authors without substantial institutional or governmental support. These costs disproportionately burden early-career investigators and scientists working in resource-limited environments.

Within this landscape, JPTM fulfills an essential and irreplaceable role. As a fully open-access journal, JPTM publishes manuscripts without cost to authors—or at only minimal cost for specific categories such as case studies—thereby ensuring that access to publication is determined by scientific merit rather than financial capacity. At the same time, the journal maintains rigorous peer review, broad scientific scope, and growing international reach, providing a high-quality platform for research across all areas of pathology and translational medicine.

By lowering both structural and economic barriers, JPTM enhances the global visibility of scientific work originating in Asia, enriches international literature with findings relevant to diverse populations and clinical environments, supports early-career researchers seeking an equitable pathway into global publishing, and contributes to a more balanced and representative scientific dialogue. In this regard, JPTM is not merely another pathology journal; it is an essential platform that counterbalances Western-dominated publication structures and advances global scientific communication.

SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL REACH AND CROSS-REGIONAL DIALOGUE

Although the journal's origins are rooted in Korea, its mission has long been global in scope. The rapid evolution of pathology as an international discipline requires scholarly platforms that can sustain scientific exchange across regions with distinct clinical environments, disease patterns, and research priorities. JPTM is well-positioned to serve as such a platform, as evidenced by its growing international authorship representing Asia, Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Oceania.

Looking ahead, the journal seeks to deepen its contribution to cross-regional dialogue through initiatives such as thematic

Table 1. Editors-in-Chief of the *Journal of Pathology and Translational Medicine*

Year of service	Editor-in-Chief	Affiliation	Associate Editor	Affiliation
1967 to 1970	Sang In Kim	Seoul National University	-	-
1970 to 1971	Soo Young Lee	The Catholic University of Korea	-	-
1971 to 1972	Yoo Bock Lee	Yonsei University	-	-
1972 to 1973	Sang Kook Lee	Seoul National University	-	-
1973 to 1976	Yong Il Kim	Seoul National University	-	-
1976 to 1977	Eui Keun Ham	Seoul National University	-	-
1978 to 1978	Jung Dal Lee	Korea Hospital	-	-
1978 to 1979	Han Ik Cho	Seoul National University	-	-
1979 to 1980	In Jun Choi	Yonsei University	-	-
1980 to 1981	Jung Dal Lee	Kyung Hee University	-	-
1981 to 1984	In Jun Choi	Yonsei University	-	-
1984 to 1986	Jung Dal Lee	Hanyang University	-	-
1986 to 1990	Yong Il Kim	Seoul National University	-	-
1991 to 1992	Chanil Park	Yonsei University	-	-
1993 to 1994	Song Kye Yong	Chung-Ang University	-	-
1995 to 1996	Nam Hee Won	Korea University	Han Kyeom Kim	Korea University
1997 to 1998	Moon Hyang Park	Hanyang University	Eun Kyung Hong	Hanyang University
1999 to 2000	Geung Hwan Ahn	Sungkyunkwan University	Cheol Keun Park	Sungkyunkwan University
2001 to 2002	Yeon-Lim Suh	Sungkyunkwan University	Sangyong Song	Sungkyunkwan University
2003 to 2004	Jae Yoon Ro	University of Ulsan	Eunsil Yu	University of Ulsan
			Jung-Sun Kim	Sungkyunkwan University
2005 to 2006	Eunsil Yu	University of Ulsan	Kyung-Ja Cho	University of Ulsan
2007 to 2008	Jeong-Wook Seo	Seoul National University	Kyung-Ja Cho	University of Ulsan
			Chan-Sik Park	University of Ulsan
2009 to 2012	Kyung-Ja Cho	University of Ulsan	Jin-Haeng Chung	Seoul National University
	So-Young Jin	Soonchunhyang University	Jee Young Han	Inha University
2013 to 2014	Soon Won Hong	Yonsei University	Jin-Haeng Chung	Seoul National University
	Kyung-Ja Cho	University of Ulsan	Jee Young Han	Inha University
2015 to 2016	Soon Won Hong	Yonsei University	Yoon Jung Choi	National Health Insurance Service Ilsan Hospital
	Chong Jai Kim	University of Ulsan	Jee Young Han	Inha University
2017 to 2018	Soon Won Hong	Yonsei University	Chan Kwon Jung	The Catholic University of Korea
	Chong Jai Kim	University of Ulsan	So Yeon Park	Seoul National University
2019 to present	Chan Kwon Jung	The Catholic University of Korea	Eunah Shin	Yonsei University
	So Yeon Park	Seoul National University	Haeryoung Kim	Seoul National University
			Andrey Bychkov ^{a)}	Kameda Medical Center
			Hee Eun Lee ^{a)}	Mayo Clinic

The journal was published under the title *The Korean Journal of Pathology* from its founding in 1967 until 2014; it was renamed the *Journal of Pathology and Translational Medicine* in 2015, under which title it continues to the present.

^{a)}Andrey Bychkov has served as Associate Editor since 2022, and Hee Eun Lee since 2023.

special issues developed in collaboration with global experts, invited reviews that synthesize emerging ideas from diverse geographic settings, and editorial partnerships that connect researchers working on complementary scientific challenges across continents. The planned expansion of the editorial board to include a broader range of international scholars will further reinforce these efforts.

JPTM aims to cultivate an environment in which scientific perspectives from globally diverse contexts are equitably rep-

resented. Such inclusivity enriches the global understanding of disease, particularly in pathology, where variations in epidemiology, genetics, and environment underscore the need for knowledge drawn from multiple regions.

CURRENT POSITION AND STRENGTHS OF JPTM

Today, JPTM occupies a position of growing international

prominence. Submissions come from across Asia, Europe, and the Americas, reflecting a readership and contributor base that extends well beyond the journal's national origins. Its multidisciplinary scope encompasses surgical pathology, cytopathology, molecular pathology, digital pathology, tumor biology, translational oncology, and the full spectrum of organ-based diagnostic specialties. Editorial processes have been strengthened through careful oversight, ethical rigor, and consistent application of peer-review standards. Coupled with an uninterrupted publication record and rising citation metrics, these developments demonstrate that JPTM has matured into a stable, credible, and internationally relevant journal.

LOOKING AHEAD: PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT DECADE

As pathology continues to evolve toward deeper integration with molecular medicine, spatial and single-cell technologies, advanced imaging, and computational science, JPTM must remain responsive to this changing landscape. Future priorities include strengthening the journal's focus on studies that bridge diagnostic pathology with translational and mechanistic research, expanding the publication of clinically impactful investigations, enhancing editorial transparency and adherence to global ethical standards, and supporting early-career investigators through an accessible and equitable publication model. International participation should continue to grow through collaborative initiatives and themed issues that highlight emerging areas of scientific importance. A long-term aspiration remains the journal's eventual re-indexing in SCIE, achieved through continuous improvements in scientific quality, editorial governance, and international engagement.

UPHOLDING EDITORIAL INTEGRITY IN THE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes more deeply integrated into scientific research and clinical practice, the scholarly publishing ecosystem faces new ethical and procedural challenges. AI-assisted writing tools, algorithmic data analysis, automated figure generation, and large language models offer powerful capabilities but also pose risks related to authorship responsibility, data authenticity, image manipulation, plagiarism, and the erosion of scientific accountability.

Recognizing these challenges, JPTM has strengthened its editorial policies to ensure the responsible, transparent, and ethically governed use of AI in scientific publishing. AI tools cannot be listed as authors, as they cannot assume responsibility for the integrity of published work. Any use of generative AI or algorithmic assistance in writing, image processing, or data analysis must be clearly disclosed in the manuscript, including the tool used, the purpose for its use, and the extent of its contribution. Undisclosed AI-generated content constitutes a breach of publication ethics.

As AI continues to advance, JPTM will maintain a flexible, adaptive policy framework, regularly update author guidelines, provide ongoing training for editors and reviewers, and align with global standards such as Committee on Publication Ethics, International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, and Council of Science Editors. By proactively addressing AI-related ethical issues, JPTM seeks to uphold the highest standards of trust, rigor, and accountability while embracing innovations that enhance the publication process.

CONCLUSION

Sixty volumes of continuous publication reflect a remarkable legacy of dedication by authors, reviewers, editors, and the academic societies that have supported JPTM since its inception. The journal's evolution, from a nationally focused publication to a platform of growing international stature, illustrates how scholarly publishing must adapt to new technological, scientific, and ethical realities while upholding enduring commitments to quality, accessibility, and integrity. As JPTM moves into its next decade, it remains committed to advancing the science and practice of pathology, fostering global dialogue, and providing a fair and rigorous venue for the dissemination of research in pathology and translational medicine. The achievements of the past sixty volumes form a shared foundation, and the promise of the future rests on our collective commitment to sustaining and elevating the journal's contributions to the worldwide pathology community.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no potential conflicts of interest.

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