

FAQs: AANS Publishing Partnership with Oxford University Press

The AANS Board of Directors has approved a strategic publishing partnership with Oxford University Press (OUP), effective January 2027. This partnership is designed to strengthen the long-term future of the Journal of Neurosurgery Publishing Group (JNSPG) and expand the reach and impact of its six journals while preserving the editorial excellence and scientific integrity that members value and trust.

As part of this transition, the AANS Board has also approved moving JNSPG journals to a fully digital publishing model beginning January 1, 2027. Print editions will conclude with the December 2026 issues.

We recognize that members may have questions about what this means for their journals, membership benefits and the future of JNSPG. The following FAQs address some of the most common questions.

About the Partnership

Why is AANS making this change?

The scholarly publishing landscape has evolved significantly in recent years, with increasing technological demands, changing reader expectations, and new models for disseminating scientific content. These changes present both opportunities and challenges for maintaining a successful independent publishing operation. After an extensive evaluation, the AANS Board of Directors determined that a strategic partnership with OUP represents the best path forward to support the continued advancement of the JNSPG, enhance accessibility of its journals, and ensure they remain a valued resource for the neurosurgical community.

Why was Oxford University Press selected?

OUP is one of the world's most respected academic and scientific publishers, with extensive experience publishing leading medical and scientific journals and offers global distribution, advanced publishing technology, and significant expertise in scholarly publishing. The partnership positions the JNSPG to continue building upon its reputation while reaching an even broader national and international audience.

Does this mean AANS is selling the journals?

No. The JNSPG remains an AANS publishing enterprise. OUP has been selected as AANS's publishing partner and will provide publishing, production, technology, and distribution services. The journals will continue to operate under AANS leadership and governance.

Will AANS continue to oversee the journals?

Yes. The AANS will continue to provide strategic oversight of the JNSPG. Editorial leadership, journal direction, and the scientific mission of the journals will remain under AANS and JNSPG governance.

How was the decision to move to digital-only publishing made?

The AANS Board of Directors approved the transition to a fully digital publishing model after considering the evolving scholarly publishing landscape and the long-term needs of JNSPG. The decision supports the continued strength, accessibility and sustainability of the journals while maintaining their high editorial standards.

Membership & Journal Access

What is changing for members?

Through December 2026, members should continue accessing journal resources and services as they do today. Print editions of JNSPG journals will conclude with the December 2026 issues, and beginning January 1, 2027, journal content will be delivered exclusively through digital platforms.

At that time, digital journal access will expand to all AANS membership categories as a membership benefit. There are no changes to manuscript submission or peer review at this time. Additional information will be shared as transition planning progresses.

Will journal access continue to be included as an AANS member benefit?

Yes. There are no planned changes to journal access as an AANS membership benefit. Should any future changes become necessary, members will be notified well in advance.

Why is JNSPG discontinuing print journals?

The AANS Board of Directors approved a transition to a fully digital publishing model as part of its long-term strategy for the JNSPG. Digital publishing aligns with evolving reader preferences, expands global accessibility, improves publishing efficiency and allows resources to be focused on enhancing the online journal experience.

When will print subscriptions end?

Print subscriptions for all JNSPG journals will conclude with the final issues published in December 2026. Beginning January 1, 2027, all journal content will be available exclusively in digital format.

Will I lose access to journal content when print ends?

No. Members will continue to have access to JNSPG journal content electronically. The transition affects only the print format and does not change member access to the journals.

Can I opt in to continue receiving printed copies after January 2027?

No. As part of the transition to a fully digital publishing model, printed editions of JNSPG journals will no longer be produced after December 2026.

Will I need a new username or password to access the journals?

No changes are expected before the January 2027 transition. If new login credentials or account migration become necessary, detailed instructions will be provided well in advance.

Will I still access the journals through the AANS and JNSPG websites?

Members should continue accessing the journals through the AANS and JNSPG websites as they do today. Any future changes to the member experience will be communicated before they occur.

How will I access journal content after print ends?

Members will continue to access journal content online through existing journal and member access channels. Additional information regarding any future updates to the user experience will be communicated in advance of the January 2027 transition.

Will archived journal content remain available?

Yes. Maintaining long-term access to the journals' extensive archive is an important priority throughout the transition. Members will continue to have access to archived content through the journals' digital platforms.

Journals & Editorial Quality

Will all six JNSPG journals continue to be published?

Yes. The partnership with OUP includes continued publication of all six JNSPG journals, including the *Journal of Neurosurgery*; *Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine*; *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*; *Neurosurgical Focus*; *Neurosurgical Focus: Video*; and *Journal of Neurosurgery: Case Lessons*.

Will the journal titles change?

No, the journals will continue to publish under their established titles.

Will the quality or editorial standards of the journals change?

No. Maintaining the high scientific standards and editorial integrity that have defined the JNSPG journals remains a top priority. This partnership is intended to enhance publishing capabilities while preserving the editorial independence and peer review standards that guide the journals.

Will the Editors-in-Chief and Editorial Boards remain the same?

Yes. The current editorial leadership and Editorial Boards will continue to oversee the scientific content of their respective journals.

Who will make editorial decisions?

Editorial decisions will continue to be made exclusively by each journal's Editors-in-Chief and Editorial Board. OUP will not influence editorial decisions or peer review outcomes.

Transition Timeline**When does the partnership begin?**

OUP will begin publishing the journals effective January 1, 2027. However, the JNSPG will be working closely with OUP in the coming months to effectuate the transition. Remaining 2026 issues will be published under current JNSPG procedures and processes. Authors with papers in progress will receive communications regarding their publication's timing in the months to come.

Will anything change before January 2027?

No. Members, authors, reviewers, and readers will continue using existing journal systems and processes.

How will members be informed about future changes?

The AANS will communicate important updates through member communications, the AANS website, and journal communications throughout the transition.

Looking Ahead**How will this partnership benefit AANS members?**

The partnership is designed to strengthen the long-term future of the JNSPG by leveraging OUP's publishing expertise, technology, and global distribution network. For members, the goal is to preserve the journals' outstanding scientific quality while enhancing their visibility, accessibility, and impact throughout the global neurosurgical community.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Members with questions about the transition may contact the AANS Member Services team at memberservices@aans.org. Additional updates and resources will also be posted on the AANS website as they become available.

Authors**Can I continue submitting manuscripts as usual?**

Yes. Authors should continue using the current manuscript submission system until notified otherwise.

Will the manuscript submission process change?

No immediate changes are anticipated. If new submission platforms or processes are introduced as part of the transition, authors will receive detailed instructions in advance.

Will manuscripts currently under review be affected?

No. Manuscripts currently in review will continue through the existing editorial process.