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Dear Colleagues,

Greetings once again from the University of Houston Clear Lake and welcome to Volume 15 of the Small Business Institute Journal. Volume 15 begins our third-year hosting SBIJ and we are pleased to announce a significant change in our publishing processes.

Starting with this issue, SBIJ is now in continuous publication. This means that rather than publishing two issues each with about four articles, we will now publish one issue a year and release articles as they are ready.

For 2019, this means we begin Volume 15 here with this letter and our first two articles of publication. We will then add two articles a month, through the remainder of the year, resulting in the same eight articles we have published each of the past two volumes.

As we move into 2020 and Volume 16, we intend to begin the volume earlier in the year. During 2020, we expect to release an article every six to eight weeks with the same target of eight articles a year.

This change makes sense because, as an electronic open-access journal, we do not have to coordinate a printing schedule as a print journal would. In many ways, the two issues a year model SBIJ has used in the past was an anachronism of a different publishing era. Publishing one continuous issue a year has significant impact on our readers and our authors.

For our readers, this means the website will renew itself more frequently. At present, the SBIJ landing page primarily changes when a new issue releases. Going forwards, the landing page will change and update on a more regular basis, every four to eight weeks, and we will notify our readers with announcements as new articles release.

For our authors, this should substantially hasten time to publication. At present, the review period is not the longest delay to publication, the copy edit period is. In the past we often (but not always) turned around a review cycle and notify an author of intent to publish, but had to caution that this would then involve waiting for a next, or even subsequent issue to release. No longer is that the case.

With continuous publishing, once an article is accepted for publication we will move it into immediate copy editing. Working with our authors and copy editors, we will prepare the article for publishing and then simply add it to the present volume when the article is ready. It is not an exaggeration to state that this will cut months off the wait time for some of our articles.

We hope you enjoy this transition to continuous publishing. This is an idea we have been preparing for some time and it is with great excitement that we finally step forwards into this mode of release.

Kindest Regards,
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