AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Position Description

Washington, D.C.
American Public Health Association

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is a community of public health professionals, with a collective voice advocating for the public’s health. With over 25,000 members, it is the largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world. For over 140 years APHA has pursued its mission to improve the health of the public and achieve equity in health status, working toward its vision of a healthy society.

Its guiding priorities are:

- Building public health infrastructure and capacity
- Creating health equity
- Ensuring the right to health and health care

The offices of APHA are located in Washington, D.C. The Chief Executive Officer is the Executive Director, Georges Benjamin, MD. The elected President from 2013 to 2014 is Joyce R. Gaufin, BS, and the elected Chair of the Executive Board from 2013 to 2014 is Lisa M. Carlson, MPH.

The American Journal of Public Health (AJPH) was founded by APHA in 1911, and APHA has always been, and continues to be, the publisher. APHA now seeks to appoint an Editor-in-Chief who will provide innovative and inspiring leadership, contribute to the illustrious history of AJPH, continue the high academic standards, and continue to contribute to the social goals of APHA.

Over the years, all of the Editors-in-Chief of AJPH have shared two common qualities: a broad vision of the public health field and a dedicated commitment to the Journal. The current Editor-in-Chief is Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH. She has served with distinction since 1998, and she will complete her tenure in April 2015, when she will become the first Editor Emeritus of AJPH. APHA has initiated a search for her successor, and has appointed a distinguished search committee to make recommendations to the Executive Board of APHA, which will make the final selection and the appointment. The consulting firm of Alexander, Wollman and Stark has been selected to manage the search.

American Journal of Public Health

The American Journal of Public Health is published monthly in print and electronically, and is periodically augmented with thematic supplements. The Journal’s mission is to advance public health research, policy, practice, and education. The Journal’s vision is to be the premier, most comprehensive source of public health research, policy, practice, and education. The journalistic values are editorial independence; strong contemporary science; diverse and provocative public...
health viewpoints; social justice; and quality, timely, accessible, and useful public health information.

In 2013 the Journal received 3,077 submissions, of which 22.2% were accepted for publication. The average time from submission to acceptance was 3.7 months, and the average time from submission to online publication was 7.7 months. The Journal’s impact factor in 2013 was 4.229. In the Public, Environmental and Occupational Health category the Journal’s Science Index rank was 14 of 160 titles, and its Social Science index rank was 4 of 136 titles.

The Executive Board of APHA appoints an Editorial Board, consisting of publication professionals representing diverse public health disciplines. The Editorial Board reviews policy issues including ethics, publication priorities, maintenance of the Journal’s editorial independence, and external funding for special issues of the Journal. In addition, the members of the Editorial Board represent the viewpoints of authors, reviewers, and readers to the editors of the Journal, the Journal staff, and the publisher. The Editorial Board represents the Journal to the publisher, and annually reviews the Journal’s finances and makes funding recommendations to the publisher.

**The Position**

The Editor-in-Chief is appointed by the Executive Board of APHA and reports to the Executive Director of APHA. The Editor-in-Chief has complete editorial independence.

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for all editorial functions of the Journal and supervises and coordinates the editorial efforts of twenty-one national and international editors, including the Deputy Editor, department editors, associate editors, and feature editors. The Editor-in-Chief makes the final decision on disposition of all submissions and plans the content of each issue.

The Editor-in-Chief Position requires a minimum commitment of half time effort, for which APHA provides a stipend. It is necessary to be in the Washington, D.C., offices of the Journal periodically for face to face meetings with the editors, the staff, the Editorial Board, and the publisher.

**Specific Duties, Responsibilities and Opportunities**

- Manage the work of the editors and the editorial staff to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.
- Appoint, evaluate, replace when appropriate, and provide oversight of the Deputy Editor, associate editors, department editors, and feature editors.
Assure continuation of the Journal’s stature as a scientific, educational, and social resource, and as “the place to publish” timely, quality, and cutting edge public health manuscripts.

In consultation with the Editorial Board, generate and recommend for implementation strategic, tactical, and business plans to assure sustainability and growth for the Journal.

In consultation with the Editorial Board, recommend to the publisher critical priorities for funding.

In collaboration with APHA leadership, expand domestic and global utilization, readership and audiences for the Journal.

Expand coverage of the Journal in various media, to increase awareness of public health issues.

Advance social engagement via established AJPH social media channels.

Develop and implement digital media initiatives for greater reader engagement online.

Increase student engagement in the Journal.

Implement a continuing education program based on Journal content.

Serve as the Journal’s representative to all relevant communities.

Promote effective communication and working relationships among APHA leadership groups, the Editorial Board, the editors, and the Journal staff.

Develop and foster collaborative projects and relationships with editors, outside funders, and others.

In consultation with the Editorial Board, prepare an annual report to the Executive Board of APHA.

In consultation with the Editorial Board, develop strategies to proactively address balancing the degree of open access with economic viability.

Professional Qualifications

- MD, PhD, DrPH, or equivalent terminal degree in public health, medicine and/or a related discipline.

- A track record of leadership in a health sciences field.

- A record of substantial scholarship and publication in major peer reviewed journals.

- Experience as an Editor-in-Chief, Deputy Editor, or Associate Editor of a peer reviewed journal.

- Strong written and oral communication skills.
• Experience with online publication and social media.

• A track record of mentoring authors and editors.

• Successful collaborative efforts with diverse constituencies representing health sciences, policy, and practice.

Personal Characteristics

• Strong interest in working with and developing both senior and junior editors.

• Consensus building and team building skills.

• Ability to create and nurture collaborations.

• Ability to effectively address competing priorities.

• Ability to motivate others.

• Commitment to advance diversity in the Journal’s constituencies, publication topics, and coverage of public health issues.

• Commitment to developing and fostering the uniqueness of AJPH while utilizing technologic advances in publishing.