This is an introduction to help get a Journal Club started in an ACOEP local Student Chapter.

How to start:

1) **Find a group of students interested** in meeting once a month, who are willing to read the assigned article(s) and come prepared to discuss opinions and questions.

2) **Find a Discussion mentor.** This is someone who has years of experience reading, analyzing and using all type of journal publications. It can be a professor, current research principal investigator, or knowledgeable resident who is willing to be present at every meeting.

3) **Find an article and get it to everyone at least 2 weeks ahead of the meeting date.**

4) **Assign member(s) to prepare an in-depth presentation on either the entire article itself or a specific section.** This person or persons should be prepared to answer the groups’ questions on the particular methodology used, background information provided and results discussion. They do not need to have a presentation summarizing the article but should be ready to help answer specific questions the group might have during discussion.

5) **Prepare questions to help facilitate discussion.**

   **Remember this is NOT a lecture!** The goal is for everyone to participate and come prepared to discuss the positives and negatives of the article being presented. Ask yourself if you would use the conclusions presented in your clinical practice or would you publish this data if you owned a medical journal.

Resources to find interesting Research articles:

1) If you have an iPad/iPhone:
   **QxMD Read:** [http://www.qxmd.com/apps/read-by-qxmd-app](http://www.qxmd.com/apps/read-by-qxmd-app)
   QxMD Read is an app for iPads. It allows the member to pick across a wide variety of journals/keywords and access articles directly from their site. There is a way to link your school’s journal access to it as well that makes getting full PDFs pretty easy. If your school is not one of the pre-listed schools, you can follow the associated link requesting it be added. This takes a couple of weeks.

2) Specific journals that have free PDF’s through **PubMed:**
   b. American Journal of Emergency Medicine
   c. Annals of Emergency Medicine
   d. JAMA: the Journal of the American Medical Association
   e. JAOA: the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association
f. New England Journal of Medicine

g. Nature

3) **Google Scholar** search is also very helpful- keywords are up to you!

What to look for when picking an article:

1) **Abstract** – if you don’t understand every word it is ok! The abstract should sound interesting and showcase some interesting results or questions for analysis

2) **Researchers university affiliation**- recognize any corporate or school affiliation and look for sources of funding

When you’re just starting out, don’t worry if the articles seem too daunting. There is a lot out there so pick something that you’d like to read and chances are your fellow students would like that too. Evaluate the usefulness of the article quickly by looking over the abstract and the introduction and conclusion- if these few paragraphs sound interesting and relevant it’s probably a good choice.

The different types of publications:

**Scholarly Reviews**
These are a person(s) compilation of various published research focused on a single topic with their own opinions scattered throughout. These are great to get a understanding of some of the work already done on a specific topic and is a great place to start when formulating research ideas of your own (ie. search for a topic you would like to do research in and find a few reviews discussing what’s already been done and where research in that field is heading. Tip: Look at the article’s references for articles that address your unique question).

**Case studies**
These are often short summaries of a specific case that a clinician encountered, thought was interesting and added relevant and education information beyond the classic pathological presentation. These publication discuss the relevance of the case in the broad context of pathogenesis understanding, show how the specific case deviated from expected findings and discusses the clinician’s diagnostic process including relevant laboratory findings, imaging and clinical presentation.

**Research**
These are survey-based or lab-based analysis of a specific hypothesis. This is what students are hoping to write, use to guide clinical research and what they should know how to evaluate critically. There is an abstract, introduction, methodology section, a results section and a conclusion. **These types of publications should make up the majority of your Journal Club sessions** because these are what students should understand and evaluate and, eventually, learning how to reproduce.

Questions?

Email your Research chairperson!