



December 2020

2020: Many Accomplishments Despite Many Obstacles

Wow! This past year has been filled with accomplishments for The Manuals.

- We launched the professional version in Vietnamese, bringing to 12 the total number of languages our website is available in.
- We continued to accelerate our updating and publishing Manuals content, so that 95% of our content is less than 2 years old and over 60% has a 2020 date.
- We have begun the process of adding a new section to The Manual. As we told you this summer, we have added Dr. Adrienne Youdim to the Editorial Board as reviewer for the Health & Wellness section. We've worked with her to outline the topics for the section, and the initial drafts of the first few chapters have already been submitted.
- We updated the editing portal to make it easier for you to request your chapter if you need to make some updates before its scheduled update cycle.
- We updated to a new version of the program Sitecore that creates all our websites (a 3-month project).

BY THE NUMBERS

	NOV 2020	2020 TO DATE
WEBSITE USER SESSIONS	46.5M	481.5M
TOTAL PAGEVIEWS	67.4M	711.7M
CHAPTERS PUBLISHED		
CONSUMER	16	241
PROFESSIONAL	23	256
APP DOWNLOADS	124K	1.59M

- We revised the contributor help center to make it easier for you to get answers to questions that arise as you work.
- In March, we added a multi-page COVID-19 resource center to our website's home page, including curated news items, links to a variety of useful websites and information sources, FAQs, and editorials and in-depth discussions of the progress of the pandemic, mitigation efforts, and treatment and prevention efforts.

We are grateful for your help in achieving these accomplishments. None would have been possible without the hard work of our contributors. We needed the assistance of every author who responded to a request to quickly review a manuscript or respond to a question. More than 160 of you completed your chapter updates within the month assigned, earning a bonus. We especially want to thank Dr. Brenda Tesini, who updated the discussion of SARS-CoV-2 multiple times this year, ensuring the topic reflected current CDC guidance, and Dr. Matt Levison, who wrote 9 thoroughly researched and highly referenced commentaries on aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for all your hard work. Rest up. Next year will be just as busy.



Robert S. Porter, MD

Executive Director, Scientific Affairs
Editor-in-Chief, Merck Manuals

Tech Corner: Editing Help Center

Need some help or some tips on using the editing portal? Click this [link](#) and you'll be taken to our Editing Help Center. Take a look around, explore, learn, watch some videos, and maybe peruse the previous editions of our newsletter. As always, you can also reach out to us through [email](#) and let us know how we can help you. We'll get back to you as soon as possible!



Check Out Season Two of the Medical Myths Podcasts

Have you listened to season two of The Manuals Medical Myths podcast yet? This most recent season covers some of the medical topics that are most frequently searched on the web and are prone to a lot of myths and misconceptions. Episodes this season feature interviews with Manuals contributors who set the record straight on rheumatology, vertigo, hypertension, gastrointestinal issues, vision myths, dental myths, hangovers, and COVID-19. Take a [listen](#) and [email](#) us if you would like to be involved in a future episode!



Get to Know Michael Wasserman, MD, Advocate for Older Adults

Dr. Michael Wasserman is a geriatrician from Woodland Hills, California. Dr. Wasserman has served as a member of The Manuals Editorial Board since 2013, but he has been an advocate for older adults for his entire career. Most recently, Dr. Wasserman has been vocal about the toll the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on residents of nursing homes and nursing home staff. His role as immediate past president of the California Association of Long Term Care Medicine and his active social media presence have allowed him to share his concern for older adults in numerous interviews and television appearances.

Dr. Wasserman served on the National Academy of Science's committee "A Framework for Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus." He's also editor-in-chief of a forthcoming textbook *Geriatric Medicine: A Person-Centered Evidence-Based Approach*. One of his more recent roles is as vice-chair of Wish of a Lifetime, an organization that wants to change how society values the experience and expertise of older adults by granting life-long dreams.

Dr. Wasserman is a graduate of the University of Texas, Medical Branch. He completed an Internal Medicine Residency at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and a Geriatric Medicine Fellowship at UCLA. He is also a triathlete and a proud grandfather.

Dr. Wasserman recorded a video for The Manuals in which he explained his passion for geriatric medicine.

Watch here: <https://youtu.be/FpWMSGVtCEo>



Happy New Year!

Our office will be closed for the holidays from Thursday, December 24, 2020, to Sunday, January 3, 2021. We will resume regular operating hours on Monday January 4, 2021.

Remember that the editing portal is always accessible. However, we may take a little longer to respond to email queries during the holidays.



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