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Message from the Editors: New Platform, Same Great Taste!

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By now, we are probably all well accustomed to the double-edged sword that is living in this quasi-post-pandemic world. Of course, we have seen a massive global disruption in our personal and professional lives. Still, through this disruption, we also see a renewed vigor and willingness to implement innovative, progressive ideas. Now that we are all so used to having to pivot on a dime as plans change or are impacted by the pandemic, I think we all have embraced change and its capability to act as a positive force, helping us to carve out a path forward and ushering in new progress.

Here at *EON*, we have always relished the opportunity to embrace change and look for ways to optimize *EON* as a publication. As such, we are in the process of exploring ways to improve the format and delivery of *EON*. We have many ideas for ways that we can improve *EON* and bring the publication to the next level. While we explore all of our options, we wanted to get a jump start on trying something new, and give you, our community, a chance to explore with us and weigh in on what you'd like to see from *EON*.

As you have probably already noticed, the November issue of *EON* has been published on a new platform—one which we are pleased to be trying out in the pursuit of all those goals listed previously—PubPub. PubPub is a platform that has many strengths for smaller publications like *EON* and will allow us a greater degree of control over the publication process. For instance, it gives us access to a broader range of media we can embed in our articles and gives us the tools to allow for more direct engagement with the ISMTE community directly through the publication platform. We will continue to encourage and facilitate additional engagement from the ISMTE community and maintain the high level of quality we have all come to expect from *EON*.

In general, you really shouldn't notice any significant changes to the publication schedule, the content we are publishing, or the opportunities for new and returning authors to contribute to *EON* while we try out this new platform. Still, you will see that the process will continue to become more streamlined; this transition will empower us to implement changes more quickly as we continue to explore the opportunities and benefits of PubPub. But, there are a couple of things we would like to highlight about this move.

Shifting to an Open-Access Platform

PubPub is designed to encourage and facilitate the open sharing of information, and we have long been interested in exploring this aspect of *EON* and its strategic role within ISMTE. Given this change and how easily PubPub can be configured to allow for a freely accessible experience, we are investigating how *EON* performs within this open-access space. In our view, opening *EON* to a broader readership can only drive up our engagement with the industry overall. *EON* will continue to be a drawing force to bring people to join ISMTE as members while tapping into groups and communities which may not have been able to engage with our content as effectively within our previous model. We are very excited about this opportunity and think it will allow us to expand *EON* further and draw new contributors, readers, and members into the ISMTE family. Of course, a key consideration we kept in mind as we looked at this option is that *EON* has been one prominent benefit members of ISMTE enjoy. We are not looking to reduce that benefit for anyone, but we hope to expand upon this benefit and look to implement new changes and incentives to continue to use *EON* as a driving force to contribute to ISMTE membership goals.

Allowing for Greater Control

One crucial factor that we must consider when embracing change is how quickly and adroitly we need to make transitions and decisions as *EON* continues to evolve and grow. In our eyes, a publishing platform like PubPub allows the Editors and the Editorial Board to quickly discuss and implement changes as opportunities arise, and will enable us to efficiently coordinate changes to *EON* as suggested by ISMTE members and implemented by the Editors. We are delighted to see PubPub's capabilities in this regard and think it is ideally suited to give us the flexibility and direct control we are looking for.

Improved Metrics, Meta-data, and Tracking

One thing we have always found a little lacking with our current system for archiving past *EON* issues has been our ability to tag, track, and monitor content as we publish it and to be able to navigate that content easily. This pursuit was one of the primary things we discussed with the PubPub team in this transition, and we are very happy with the potential we see within PubPub to give us greater access to this kind of data and tracking. Are you one of the readers who has emailed an Editor asking us if we've ever published an article on a specific topic? Have you ever tried sorting through the past issues yourself, looking for one particular piece that you *know* we've published previously but cannot find it? The tools and features PubPub gives us access to will afford us a much greater ability to collect, sort, and filter this data in a facile and helpful way. We are very excited to begin implementing some of these changes we know you have been eagerly awaiting. Of course, this process will take some time for us to upload past issues into PubPub's platform, but we promise that the ability to search for past articles will be worth the wait!

An Opportunity to Allow for Increased Engagement

Ultimately, all of these opportunities PubPub affords us will allow us to continue moving towards accomplishing a critical, overarching goal that the Editors and members of the Editorial Board are interested in, continuing to encourage ISMTE's engagement with *EON* and *EON*'s engagement with ISMTE members. *EON* has always been at its best when we have a vibrant, diverse, and rich community around us actively engaging with and responding to the content we publish. Our community truly is at the foundation of what makes *EON* what it is – the contributions all of us bring to the table. So again, this exploration of new publishing opportunities such as PubPub allows us to look to implement more features, tools, and procedures that will continue to foster and develop this community engagement.

Even the move to PubPub itself could not have happened without the input, advice, and feedback from the Editorial Board, ISMTE Board of Directors, and committee members who dedicated many hours over the last several months to implement these changes. Many ISMTE members donated their time to beta test the site and implement a process to bring past issues onto the new platform. This really seems like a beautiful reminder of how communal *EON* truly is. If you ever speak to any past or current *EON* editor, we will always highlight this as one of our great strengths and one which we will always seek to encourage and protect.

Finally, the Editors would like to take a moment to thank you all and give a special nod of thanks to the Editorial Board, past Editors, ISMTE leadership, and of course Donna Blake-Weems for their constant support and assistance throughout this process. *EON* would be nothing without ISMTE around us, and we are so happy to begin this exciting new phase in *EON*'s progression in the exact same way we started *EON*, by consciously and deliberately building upon the contributions of our great community and continuing to bring the best possible content that we can to each issue. Finally, we would also like to thank our partners at Sheridan, who have been critical contributors to *EON*'s success, and we greatly appreciate the support they gave us so generously. We are so excited to announce these new changes to *EON* and hope that you will all be able to interact with and explore these changes soon. As always, we look forward to receiving your feedback, comments, and suggestions as we continue to explore our partnership with PubPub and its role in our path ahead.