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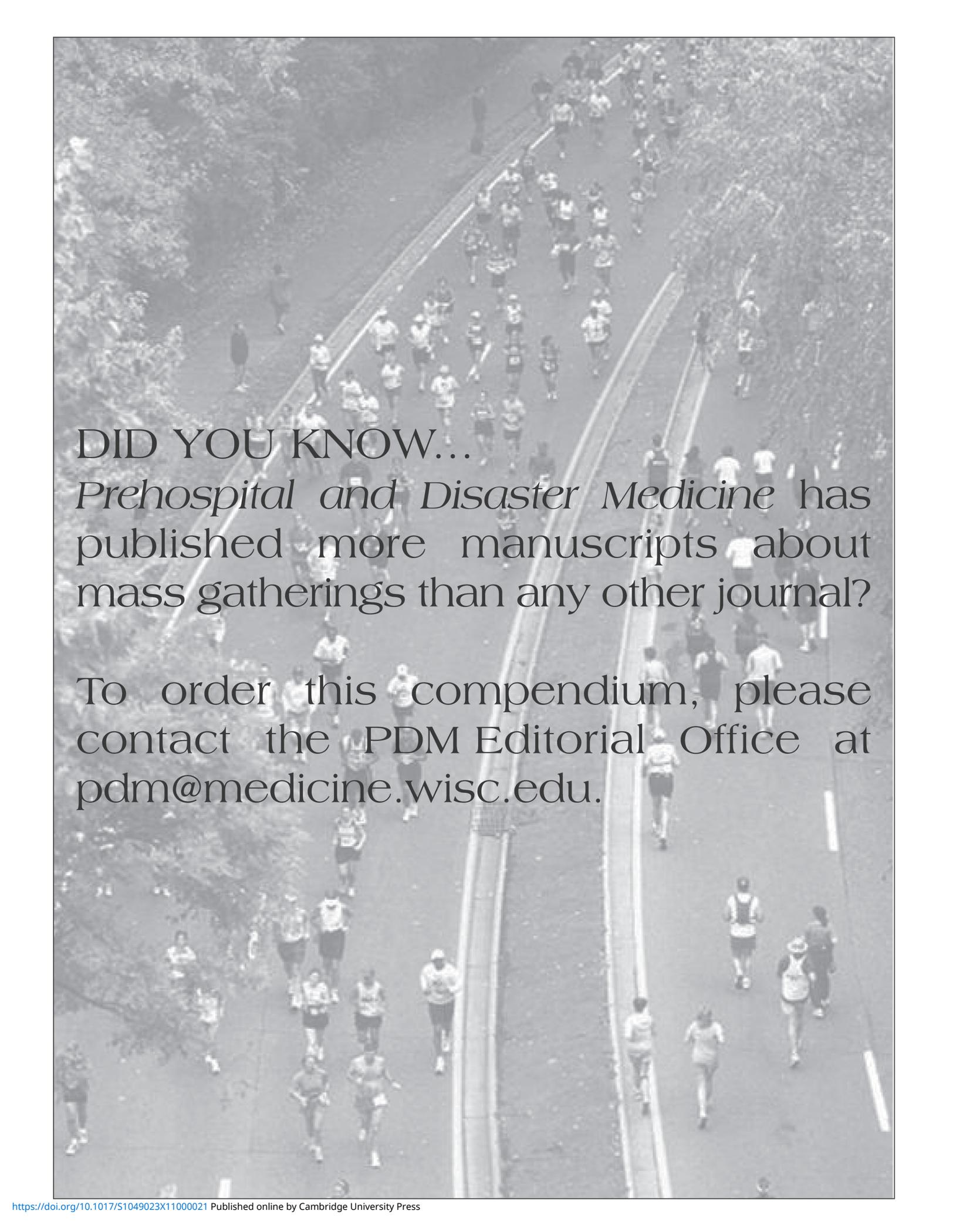
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All manuscripts submitted for publication must include an abstract that summarizes the work. Other types of manuscripts must have the approval of the Editor before being submitted or may be invited by the Editor or a member of the Editorial Board. The characteristics specific to each of these categories are described briefly below:

1. **Original Research**—structured research that uses quantitative and/or qualitative data collection methods and analyses to establish a hypothesis or prove a cause: effect relationship(s) is included in this category. The manuscript must be structured as follows:

Abstract—concise summary in the following format (*not to exceed 375 words*):

Introduction: need for the study.

Hypothesis/Problem: what was tested (experimental studies only). If qualitative, statement of problem addressed.

Methods: summary of methods used with subsections as appropriate (type of subjects, number of subjects, study design, statistical tests). If the work is qualitative, the types of instruments used and the scope and type of work must be described. If a disaster is involved, the dates, type of event, location, scope, magnitude, and numbers of casualties and deaths must be summarized in tabular form for indexing.

Results: summary of principal findings.

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Methods—descriptive to a degree that other investigators would be able to reproduce the study. Statistical methods used must be annotated. Approval by an Institutional Review Committee must be included when appropriate.

Results—results must be written in text and may be accompanied by tables and figures. The text must explain all data included in tables and figures, but should not be unnecessarily redundant. All direct results from the study must appear in this section. No discussion of the results may be included.

Discussion—the discussion should provide an interpretation of the results in terms of meaning and application. Results should not be repeated. Computations or extrapolations that may help explain the results may be provided. Limitations of the study should be defined and suggestions for future research should be included. References that support or negate explanations provided are appropriate.

Conclusion—the findings in terms of implications for the practice of prehospital, emergency, and/or disaster (humanitarian) medicine should be summarized in a few sentences.

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