

Ibnosina Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences 2018 and Beyond

The present issue of Ibnosina Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is the 52nd issue of the journal and the first issue in the 10th year. Over the first decade of its life, the journal stood the test of time of sustaining uninterrupted flow of issues on or after a couple of days from their expected day of release, a highly strict adherence to the peer-review process as the basis for quality and scholarly status and the genuine open access being fully freely accessible to authors and readers. So far, we have kept our promise that we pledged in our issue in 2009.^[1]

Emerging journals have 2 major challenges. They are being squeezed between two different forces that threaten their mere existence. The vicious attack from predatory publishers in huge numbers of journals and aggressive marketing strategies make the true open journals struggle to distinguish themselves from the flood of predatory, non-peer ones that send invitations and reminders on a daily basis.^[2] Hence, we cannot blame new reviewers who may ignore a request to review from an emerging journal not known to them even if it is genuine journal. The other major challenge comes from the clones of open access journals created by international publishers building on their visibility, experience, and publishing resources. Nowadays, it is almost the rule rather than the exception that a manuscript submitted to an international journal gets referred to a sister open access journal with the usual financial implications. Consequently, the mere sustaining of existence under these circumstances should be counted as a success.

In 2017, we got the journal associated with an international publisher with vast experience in medical publishing (Medknow) and a new editorial board took over from the founding team.^[3,4] The new website is more friendly to browsing readers and to monitoring assessors as one can see the number of viewing and downloading of individual articles. In addition, all articles now have a unique DOI. We continue to attract interests of our readership by publishing relevant original articles and opinions.^[5] Our recent editorials on predatory publishing and fake academia were first to address the issue in Middle Eastern region.^[2,6] We also continue to capture the interest of our target readers by publishing ethnically relevant articles addressing clinical practice and research in developing regions. Some articles have reached or exceeded the 1000 viewers.

Furthermore, the most common question we receive in public and private circles is when will you be on PubMed. Normally, journals take between 3 and 5 years before they get indexed by PubMed. The period may even be longer for emerging

journals.^[7] When we applied to be indexed in 2015, although the final mark of the appraisal fell short of the required score for affirmative recommendation for IJMBS to be indexed, there were many positive comments on the niche of the journal that make us optimistic in future applications. We have been implementing all the recommendations of the PubMed reviewers. All articles have mandatory sets of disclosures that cover author contributions, conflicts of interest, any source of funding and explicit statement of compliance with ethical principles, and specifically detailing the source of ethical approval and nature of consent or the lack thereof. These disclosures are checked before the articles are considered by editors and reviewers. We are optimistic about the next round indexation review.

We again pledge the editors' commitment to the scholarly publishing principles and practices and to the genuine totally free open access movement. Meanwhile, we sincerely appeal to your support in all capacities as readers, authors, and reviewers.

We wish you a very happy and prosperous 2018.

Disclosures

Equal contribution.

Ethical approval

Not required.

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