

Editorial

Brief about Medical Journals

Rizwan Iqbal¹, Muhammad Kashif Munir²¹Ex-Research Director, Managing Editor JPSIM,²Research Officer, HRI(NIH) TB Research Centre KEMU/Mayo Hospital Lahore**How to cite this:**

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Corresponding Author: Dr. Rizwan Iqbal**Email:** rizwaniqbal1@live.com

A peer reviewed scientific journal is which communicates medicinal evidence based info to health specialists.¹ A major theme of various medical journals is to improve medical care by disseminating definite findings in the form of practice and publications by considering subjects of great focus for their readers. Secondary goal of journals comprise to improve the impact factor and publishing important medical news. Local clinical issues, evidence based communication and nurturing precarious learning of healthcare workers which makes the importance of national medical journals. Physicians, medical students and scientists make up the basic readers for medical journals, nevertheless anyone curious and have consistent ability to improve his general knowledge can read these journals. The integrity of any journal may be found by considering few key features like its indexing in major field related bibliographic databases, publishing history, duration of its availability, minimum criterion of peer-review, and impact factor. The impact factor of any journal is a scientometric index measured by Clarivate which reproduces the annual mean citations of articles printed in last two years in a certain journal, as indexed by Web of Science.²

The first medical journal was published as Medical Essays and Observations in Edinburgh, United Kingdom during 1731. United States published first medical journal in the name of Medical Repository, started by Elihu Hubbard Smith, Samuel Latham Mitchell and Edward Miller. First proper medical journal was started in 1812 by the name of "The New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery" while the complementary subdivisions were late comers in medical publishing. The Lancet was started in 1823 by Thomas Wakely. At present, around 30 thousand medical journals published globally, in medical and scientific biosphere, case reports and case studies are written and read by physicians, medical researchers, nurses and post graduate medical

students.³

Current bibliographic parameters present an annual surge of 8-9% in publishing scientific papers from many decades. More than one million new research papers in field of biomedical alone are poured into the PubMed database. Free full-text articles can be approached through, PubMed, PubMed Central, Med Know Publications, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), National Medical Library and Electronic Resources in Medicine Consortium, Yahoo, Google, and Google Scholar, Public Library of Science, The Cochrane Library and Free Medical Journals.²

Highest impact factor Journals around the world in the Internal and General Medicine as reported in 2020 edition of Journal Citation Report (JCR)⁴. Around 318 titles were enlisted in this set of JCR of which top ten are listed in table 1.

Table 1: Top Ten Medical Journals of the World⁴

| Sr. No | Journal Name | Impact Factor |
|--------|---|---------------|
| 1 | Lancet (British edition) | 202.700 |
| 2 | JAMA: The Journal Of American Medical Association | 157.300 |
| 3 | BMJ: British Medical Journal | 93.330 |
| 4 | New England Journal of Medicine | 91.720 |
| 5 | Nature Reviews Disease Primers | 52.330 |
| 6 | Annals of Internal Medicine | 51.600 |
| 7 | JAMA Internal Medicine | 44.410 |
| 8 | Lancet Digital Health | 36.615 |
| 9 | Journal of Cachexia Sarcopenia and Muscle | 12.910 |
| 10 | PLOS Medicine | 11.069 |

Considering the importance of local journals Higher Education commission (HEC) helps national research journals (being published by registered institutions like universities or departments, non-profit academic societies, registered research entities, considering the scope of research) through capacity building and financial support. Pakistan Medical Journalists Association (PMJA) came into account in 1983 with aims of enhancing medical journalism throughout the country. In this regard, PMJA lead various workshops and seminars in association of foremost institutions of the country. Medical writing and medical editing form two aspects of single face as accorded by a well-known saying that there would be no editor if there are no medical writers. Unluckily these technicalities remained neglected in Pakistan. This is an era of research and development while, the nation's lacking inquisitive will be sponged out unceremoniously.

Islamic World must grasp the point earnestly especially countries belonging to EMRO region of WHO. Few lines of an article published in an esteemed scientific journal entitled "NATURE" may be quoted here. "What was wrong with the Muslim Science" Francis Giles writes: "At its peak about one thousand years ago, the Muslim World made a remarkable contribution to science, notably Mathematics and Medicine. Baghdad in its heyday and southern Spain built universities to which thousands flocked; rulers surrounded themselves with scientists and artists. A spirit of freedom allowed Jews, Christians and Muslims to work side by side. Today all this is but memory."

Every new started journals need to complete a minimum duration of two years of publications afore consideration for approval. All science Journals to be classified as W, X and Y. W and X category Journals having an Impact Factor $i-e > 3$ and < 3 respectively. Y category is top recognized journals in the subject of archival quality.⁵

An ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) is a global recognition identity number for serial publications of a specific document. It is issued separately online and print from Paris office for Pakistan.

A collection of research journals that are categorized into three different categories, W, X and Y within their respective knowledge areas on the basis of a number of internationally bench marked and recognized parameters that measure the quality of a journal. The relative position and category of each journal is computed by a proprietary algorithm that is designed with the objective of promoting quality research across various disciplines.⁵ In table 2 are enlisted top ten medical Journals of Pakistan.

Table 2: Top 10 Medical Journals of Pakistan

| S. No | Name of Journal | HEC category | Imp. Factor |
|-------|--|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences | X | 1.088 |
| 2 | Journal of Pakistan Medical Association | X | 1.002 |
| 3 | Journal of college of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan | X | 0.711 |
| 4 | Pakistan Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences | X | 0.684 |
| 5 | Pakistan Armed Forces Medical Journal | Y | |
| 6 | Journal of Postgraduate Medical Institute | Y | |
| 7 | Annals of King Edward Medical College | Y | |
| 8 | Journal of Ayub Medical College | Y | |
| 9 | Annals of Punjab Medical College | Y | |
| 10 | Khyber Medical University Journal | Y | |

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