

*Editorial*

## Libyan Journal of Medical Research (LJMR): Moving to the Next Step

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The Editor-in-Chief and executive editors are grateful to all previous editors and editorial board members who have served in any volume since the beginning of the journal. Their exemplary dedication and hard work have been the driving forces behind the Journal's success and punctuality over the last 14 years. Libyan Journal of Medical Research (LJMR) advances to the next stage today. It is healthy and necessary to pause and reflect on one's accomplishments and deficiencies, especially at various stages and milestones.

At this phase, it is appropriate to thank the authors for selecting LJMR as a venue for sharing their findings and transferring their ideas, the reviewers and editorial board for their ongoing support, and, perhaps most importantly, our readers who make it all valuable. We also welcome the new editorial team, which will take over at the same time as the publication operations are transferred to our new website, with the goal of improving the production

processes of copyediting, layout editing, and proof reading, while maintaining the quality of the peer-review process. Hence, the new editorial board will focus on improving the journal visibility by firstly subscribing into Crossref to obtain digital objective identifier (doi) for each article submitted to LJMR.

The "impact factor" has sparked a lot of interest. However, journals must demonstrate their worth in the first few years before being included in the "Science Citations Index" and receiving an official impact factor. There are now, however, numerous indexing and archiving systems for medical publications. Indeed, indexing with as many systems as possible raises the visibility of articles published in that journal. Although indexation in Index Medicus and associated indices remains the primary goal, our current efforts to get LJMR be listed in DOAJ, EBSCO, Google Scholar, and, in the future, Web of Science. The LJMR's publication metrics have remained consistent from its first issue to the current website.

The first article has always been published by the first date an issue is due, and on a couple of occasions even earlier. The remaining articles are usually published in a staggered fashion over the course of the publication period. We've kept a fairly consistent mix of published material in each article, with a mix of reviews, original articles, clinical case reports, and, when appropriate, viewpoints and editorials. We considered switching to a head of print, which allows articles to appear online after it have been accepted by the reviewers, rather than as it is closer to the classical publishing style. Further, the previous article's template was replaced to the modern template style used in various reputed journals. This simple layout will maintain the character of the journal, and improve article's citations, as it will include citation information.

Since its inception, LJMR has followed an "open access" policy in which the full text of all articles published in LJMR can be viewed and downloaded for free. There are several benefits to open access publishing [1]. First, it is commonly understood that authors publish their work in the hopes of sharing it with all of their colleagues and, possibly, the broader public [2]. Researchers would be furious if their publications were unable to be viewed due to the reader's inability to pay for journal access.

Open access achieves the ultimate purpose of "distributing and sharing scholarly information" in this way. To this purpose, it has been discovered that free online papers are mentioned more frequently. The majority of commercial open access is funded by the writers. The open access policy of LJMR, on the other hand, is fully supported by the journal from submission to publication. As a result, authors enjoy the benefits listed above without having to pay any

fees (submission, evaluation, publication, or page charges).

Despite our efforts to keep the submission-to-publication time as short as possible, we are still concerned about authors and reviewers failing to respond in time to keep the submission-to-publication time as a bare minimum. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do about it except involve more reviewers and send reminders on a regular basis. The subject of reviewer payment is out of the question because the journal is run entirely by volunteers, and we are dedicated to not charging any page charges or, for that matter, any charges at all. We do ask authors and reviewers to keep delays to a minimum, including the time it takes to determine whether a particular reviewer is willing and accessible to review an article.

We hope that the new leadership team will help the journal grow in terms of submissions, readership, and recognition. We wish you all the best for the year 2022 and beyond.

## REFERENCES

1. Benefits of Open Access for Research Dissemination. Available from: <https://www.openaccess.nl/en/what-is-open-access/pros-and-cons#:~:text=Advantages,disseminated%20more%20rapidly%20and%20widely%3A&text=Scientific%20research%20shows%20that%20publishing,more%20citations%20and%20more%20impact> [Last accessed on 2021 Oct 10].
2. Worlock K. The Pros and Cons of Open Access. Internet Document. Available from: <https://www.openaccess.nl/en/what-is-open-access/pros-and-cons>[Last accessed on 2021 Oct 10].