

Editorial Message

As we approach our 19th year of publication, we are delighted with the continued progress of the Journal. This year brought an increase in the journal's impact factor, from 0.121 for 2011 to 0.317 for 2012. This is a reflection of an increase in the average number of citations to recently published articles, and is a much welcomed sign of an improvement in the visibility and popularity of the journal. We will of course continue to strive to consistently improve this with our authors' help, but are confident that this increase will help in attracting more and higher quality submissions from authors both locally and internationally.

We decided to review and revise the journal mission and vision statements to help develop our purpose and primary objectives, and define our aims and priorities for the years to come. We also reviewed our standard requirements and made some additions to the Instructions to Authors, setting word limits, illustration, and reference limits for original and review articles.

We moved to different premises, and the new office offers more space to preserve and maintain the journal collections, and to share more of the history and milestones of the journal. We also moved to a new printing press with the hope of achieving fast and efficient printing and distribution of the printed issue.

Yearly statistics. In 2013, we received a total of 152 manuscripts, with an acceptance rate of 35%, and a rejection rate of 43%. Reasons for rejection included papers out with the scope of the journal, of low scientific quality, not meeting the requirements of the journal, authors failing to submit revisions and other necessary requirements, and duplicate publication. We published a total of 76 articles, including: 1 editorial, 9 reviews, 22 original articles, 13 case reports, 5 clinical notes, 12 brief communication, 3 correspondence, 2 quizzes, 1 book review, 4 meeting highlights and 4 MCQ's, totaling 432 pages for the entire volume. Sixty-nine percent of published articles were from the Eastern Mediterranean

Region (EMR), with 41% from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), 5% from the Gulf, and 22% from other Arab and EMR countries. The remaining 31% of published articles we received from China, Turkey, Canada, Malaysia, the USA, and India. Compared with the previous year, we can see a slight decrease in local submissions from KSA. The average time from received to acceptance of original articles was 4 months, and 2.3 months for acceptance to publication. One of the key indicators of journal quality is the processing timeframe,

and we are very proud that considering we are a quarterly publication, we have such a fast turn around period.

This year we welcomed Dr. Hyveen Ramadan as Assistant Scientific Editor to the Journal. Dr. Ramadan is involved in the initial

screening of new papers and in the review and revision process. We are sure that Dr. Ramadan's meticulous review of manuscripts will help in improving the overall quality of published work. In the coming year, we hope to enlist the services of a dedicated biostatistician, a web developer, and establish 'on the job training' opportunities for recent university graduates. We hope that the establishment of these posts will help to ensure the continuity of highly trained and dedicated staff in the years to come.

One of the many problems faced by any medical journal is finding suitable peer-reviewers. Many invited reviewers apologize due to busy schedules, topics out with their specialty, or they may choose not to even respond. Whatever the reason, the result is a delay in the peer-review process. As authors are sometimes better informed than Editors on whom to approach to obtain a high-quality review in their particular field of research, we now encourage authors to nominate potential reviewers. However, to avoid any bias, the author-suggested reviewer will only be considered for future submissions within that specialty. We hope that this new initiative will help to speed up the peer-

Mission: To disseminate accessible, up-to-date, medical information for clinical neuroscientists and other related healthcare professionals; and to promote neuroscience research with clear clinical implications enriching knowledge locally and internationally.

Vision: To be the leading peer-reviewed journal reporting developments in basic and clinical Neurosciences in the Region.

review process, develop and broaden our bank of active reviewers, and help to avoid overburdening of our busy Advisory/Editorial Board and existing reviewers.

The editors and editorial staff participated in several short courses throughout the year. The first was a workshop on Publishing Trends and Ethics in the 21st Century, hosted by the King Saud University and Elsevier BV Publishing Company. The second was a workshop on Medical Research, Thinking, & Processing at Prince Sultan Military Medical City, and lastly, the 7th International Peer Review Congress in Chicago. All the courses were informative and educational, and we are encouraged to learn that many of the issues and challenges that we face on a day to day basis are common to both national and international journals, big and small.

We published extensive highlights covering the abstracts presented at this meeting, and these can be found on the journal website. In addition, the journal also had the privilege of attending several local Neurosciences meetings, including the prestigious 12th Asian & Oceanian Congress on Child Neurology, held in Riyadh this year. Attendance at these meetings provides an opportunity to promote the journal, to encourage the submission of review and research papers from conference attendees, and source potential reviewers.

We also set up a new e-mail blast, where the Table of Contents of each issue is now sent electronically to an ever growing list of readers as soon as the issue is available online. We hope that this will be a much welcomed feature, and will encourage visitors to the journals website.

Finally, we finished phase 1 of our archival project, and the abstracts of articles dating from the year 2000 are now available on PubMed in addition to the journal website. The 2nd phase of this ongoing project will be to digitize all publications from the journals inception in 1996.

International indexing is an important aspect of journal dissemination, and this year we entered into

an agreement with Thomson Reuters to send each new issue electronically instead of the traditional print issue. This will ensure that all articles appear in the relevant online databases in an expedient manner.

With thanks. As always we extend our thanks to the Editorial and Advisory Board Members for their significant contributions to maintaining the standards of the journal, and we look forward to their important continued role in achieving our goals for 2014. We would like to thank the outgoing Advisory Board members who have now finished their term (Shireen Qureshi) and would like to welcome Saleh Baeesa and Faisal Al-Otaibi to the Advisory Board. We also extend our thanks to the outgoing Editorial Board members (Saeed Al-Garni, Joseph Dalmou, Andrew Demchuck, Abdulrahman Sabbagh, Michael Strupp, Michael Swash, Samuel Wiebe, and G. Bryan Young) and welcome Tariq Abalkhail, Adel Alhazzani, Fatimah Alqarni, Hosam Al-Jehani, Taim Al-Muayqil, and Omar Ayoub. We are honored they have agreed to join the board, and their individual contributions will be of great value to the journal. We continue the international diversity of members that the current board offers.

In 2014, we are looking forward to a new system, through which authors will be able to submit papers through a user-friendly web-based manuscript processing system. This system will also include peer-review, editing, publication, and content management, and will facilitate the global indexing of journal content. The introduction of this new system in the coming months will be of benefit to authors, reviewers, readers, researchers, and the journals editorial staff. Although there will be a period of adjustment in the early stages, we are confident that the long-term benefits of speeding up and streamlining the publication process, and increased dissemination, and exposure through indexing will soon be evident.

We hope all our readers continue to benefit from the published material, and we extend our sincerest thanks to our authors, readers, reviewers, and board members, and wish all a successful year.

Ali AlBarrak
Editor-In-Chief

Sonia Khan
Associate Editor

Mohammed Al-Zawahmah
Associate Editor

Editorial Message

Our thanks also go to the following reviewers, who have participated in the excellent review of manuscripts and books for the year 2013.

Abacioglu U	Chamberlain M	Jad L	Ravnik J
Abdeen K	Chansakul C	Jakola A	Rodriguez A
Abdullah JM	Cologlu H	Jan MS	Roodpeyma S
Addas B*	Cras P	Jha DK	
Agazzi S		Jing L	Saadah M
Agid R	Dalmau J		Sasiadek M
Ajlan A	Dao I	Kai K	Schilling R
Ankarali S	Das S	Khalifa A	Scott M
Arai YC	David A	Khan AA	Secil M
Asghar S	Davidson A	Koji A	Seizeur R
Atalay B	Deka A	Krauss G	Sirinoglu H
Aziz M	Deleu D		Skadorwa T
	Dixit S	LaManna J	Soliman O
Al-Baradie R	Dong Z	Lee I	Spinner R
Al-Farsi Y	Doshi D	Leon L	Steinbok P
Al-Hussain FA		Liu WL	Svetel M
Al-Jehani H	El Gohary A		Swash M
Al-Jishi AA	Engel S	Mantegazza R	
Almubarak S*	Engle J	Mat S	Taha M
Al-Otaibi F*		Mathai A	Tariq M
Al-Quliti KW	Finkelstein F	McOmish C	Tashani O
Alshahrani A	Forhead A	Melaiki BT	Teixeira-Salmela L
Al-Sheikh F	Freire MA	Melita I	Terzi M
Al-Suwaidan F	Friedman J	Mijalovic M	Turker H
	Friis M	Mizuno M	
Badawoud MH	Furtado S	Mochizuki H	Vignes JR
Badr M		Moiyadi AV	Vural M
Baessa S*	George S	Montinaro A	
Bahou YG	Ghosh P	Msaddi A	Wajima D
Bakhsh A	Govindaraju R	Musthapa V	Wang D
Bao X			Watanabe M
Bauer S	Hakverdioglu G	Papathanasiou E	Westhout F
Berger J	Han L	Papayannis C	Wirth R
	Harik S	Perucca E	
Campero A	Hashimoto K	Pipola C	Young B
Canavese F	Hirano S	Qureshi S	Yousef A
Cao L			
Caplan L	Ichimura S	Rafay M	Zakareia FA
Carod-Artal F			Zverev Y

**Reviewed 3 or more articles for the year 2013*