Editorial

Malaysian Orthopaedic Journal: The First Five Years

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Since its first publication in 2007, much has been achieved by the Malaysian Orthopaedic Journal (MOJ), yet we know that much more is expected. We now enjoy a relatively regular submission rate of 20 to 30 articles per issue, and a good team of Editorial Board members, reviewers and administrative staff. This is an appropriate time for us to review our progress over the last five years.

Sources of articles

Articles for the first issue were solely contributed by Malaysian authors. Over the years, contribution by foreign authors has gradually increased. We have published articles from continents far and wide such as South America and Africa. We now see more articles from the ASEAN countries; this is especially true for the March 2012 issue which was noted as the ASEAN edition. The overall number of published articles submitted by Malaysians is slightly reduced and is most probably due to higher scientific standards expected by our reviewers. Many medical journals are actively sourcing submissions for their journals especially through the internet / email contacts. An advantage for MOJ is its high visibility among Malaysian / ASEAN countries and open access format. However, we need to more proactively seek submissions from all potential authors and collaborate more closely with the national and regional orthopaedic associations. (Figure 1)

Fig. 1: Sources of published articles.

Types of articles

From 2007 to early 2012, 46.53% of all articles published were case reports. As the quality of a journal mainly relies on the presentation of sound scientific evidence for all published manuscripts, we should try to keep the ratio of case reports to around 50%. We actively encourage our authors and readers to provide comments for published articles but the response has been relatively poor. Although comments and commentaries may be the best way to improve the impact of the work, our readers seem to be uncomfortable commenting on the work others. We seek submission of original works including innovative inventions, interesting cases or surgical techniques that do not qualify as either case reports or original articles but may be considered as Letters to the Editors. (Figure 2)

Acceptance Rate and Peer Review

The acceptance rate of articles has been roughly the same, around 50 %, except for the March 2012 issue in which we had few re-submissions of articles that were reviewed for the previous issue. Expectation from reviewers may increase over time; indeed, we hope that this will come along with more constructive feedbacks that will help authors improve their presentation in subsequent submissions. For most articles, we endeavour to assign 2 to 3 reviewers to provide their comments and suggestions - we are still trying to increase the pool of reviewers.

Fig. 2: Types of published articles.

Fig. 3: Acceptance rate of past issues of MOJ.

Fig. 4: Citations by Google scholar.

Citations

Figure 4 was based on a Google online search performed in March 2012 for individual articles published by this journal since 2007. We observe that it typically up to two years for a paper to be cited; consistent with this takes thought, the earliest issue has been most successful, with 13 citations to date. We will perform this citation evaluation every year until MOJ is indexed by an organization that will perform this work as part of their standard appraisal. We have salon discussed with our webmaster and will consider creating our own complete keyword listing that will allow us to improve the visibility of individual published articles, and also for us to conduct a more comprehensive journal tracing within our homepage.

Indexing Status

Although we applied for indexing of MOJ, in 2011, our application was not accepted, due to an insufficient rate of citations of our articles. Although no definite value or definitive criteria was provided, we continue to conduct our own citation searches to calculate our citation rate, thereby allowing us to evaluate our performance with time. All our articles are assigned a digital object identifier (DOI, character string used to identify unique electronic media content) codes that help readers to trace the original source of the document.

Online access

The top 5 countries for numbers of registrants for online access for the MOJ homepage over the last 3 years include United States, China, India and United Kingdom were listed at least twice. Readers from more than 25 countries have registered for online access to MOJ issues over the last few years. Through increasing the visibility of our published articles, and our open access status, we will most likely see a higher citation rate in the future.

MOJ has transformed from a national medical specialty journal into an international journal that provides scientific and academic knowledge for a geographically diverse reader base. Over the next five years, we will work to improve the indexing status of the journal.

MOJ Editors and Editorial Board members sincerely hope that the Journal can and will provide a platform for discussion of specific medical, professional and even ethical issues in the near future.