



Al-Kindy College Medical Journal (KCMJ)

Editorial

Al-Kindy College Medical Journal: Time to Move Forward

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It is well-known that the distinguished scholastic journal is a crucial cornerstone, which contributes to the scientific integrity of a particular academic institution. The establishment of the Al-Kindy College of Medicine (AKCM), University of Baghdad, in 1998 urged the need to issue Al-Kindy College Medical Journal (KCMJ).

Nineteen years have elapsed since the release of the first issue of KCMJ in 2002. During these years, the antecedent editorial boards of KCMJ have faced various challenges in an attempt to maintain and promote the scientific integrity and quality of the journal. These challenges involved the diminished interest of researchers to publish their articles in the journal, the paucity of qualified reviewers, prolonged time of the peer-reviewing process, irregular schedule of publication, and limited financial resources. Lack of the external reviewers that offer regional and global support to the journal was an annoying matter and it has imposed a negative impact on the regional and global spread of the journal. Although the preceding deanships of AKCM have done their best over the past years to administer logistic support to the journal, yet, their efforts were not enough to make a noticeable move towards positioning the journal in the suitable rank among the local, regional, and global map of the scholastic medical journals. Nevertheless, we have to express our great thanks and appreciation to the antecedent AKCM deanships, editorial boards of the journal, and reviewers for their substantial contributions to the journal.

In the current digital era, the new editorial board of KCMJ has decided to implement changes in the guidelines of submission and processing. Successfully, we have introduced an online submission system that would markedly enable researchers and reviewers inside the country and abroad to submit and review the articles respectively, allow the editorial board to efficiently process and choose qualified articles for publication, and shorten the interval between the submissions and final decision to nearly four weeks.

Currently, AKCMJ is indexed in Iraqi Academic Scientific Journals, Google Scholar, and Researchgate. As major achievements, the journal has hopefully attained the CrossRef indexing, used for linking citations across publishers, and indexed in the digital object identifier (DOI) system, where a string of letters, numbers, and symbols are utilized to define permanently a particular article and link to it on the web. All articles published in KCMJ will have their specific DOI. Ultimately, this will help readers easily locate and access a particular article and facilitate its citations in world literature. Efforts are currently directed to index the journal in the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), a nonprofit organization, which aims

to determine the best practice in the ethics of scholarly publishing and helps editors and publishers fulfill it. We hope to achieve that task shortly.

Elsevier's Scopus is well-known to be the biggest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed journals in different disciplines. Few Iraqi journals, mostly non-medical journals, have been indexed in the Scopus. We work hard to make KCMJ indexed in that database, which would honor the journal to be the first medical journal in Iraq completing that task on one hand and helps the journal gets viral on the other hand.

We take the opportunity to send a call to researchers across the country and abroad to honor us by submitting different types of esteemed articles to the journal. Distinguished reviewers are also asked to take part in the peer-reviewing process. We welcome their registrations on the website of the journal. In the light of expecting enhanced motivation of the researchers to publish articles in the journal, we are planning to release an issue of the journal every three months rather than biannually.

We believe that accomplishing a wide-distance forward leap of the KCMJ necessitates a hard and long journey. Nevertheless, it deserves collaborative efforts, as the old famous Chinese proverb said, to initiate the first forward step in the journey of a thousand miles.