



Al-Kindy College Medical Journal (KCMJ)

Editorial

Two Decades in the Journey of Al-Kindy College Medical Journal: Key Barriers, Achievements, and Prospects

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Apart from graduating five-star doctors, a particular medical college has the mission to motivate and offer researchers the opportunity to publish high-quality researches on various health problems and disseminate updated medical knowledge to a wide range of local and international readers. This could be accomplished by establishing a medical journal and releasing issues regularly. Though Al-Kindy College of Medicine (AKCM), University of Baghdad was established in 1998, the planning to formulate a medical journal was delayed till 2002 when the first preliminary issue of the Al-Kindy College Medical Journal (KCMJ) was published to be followed by irregularly publishing few issues. The reasons behind the irregular release of issues are generally attributed to the poor logistic support from the newly established AKCM and the limited expertise of the antecedent assigned editorial boards of the journal. Moreover, the US-led invasion in 2003 and associated corruption, violence, and poor administration have tremendously ruined the integrity and infrastructure of the various institutions, including those related to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The KCMJ has started to be regularly issued in 2004.

With the release of the current issue of the KCMJ, two decades have elapsed since the release of the first preliminary issue of the journal in 2002. Although we feel happy that we have successfully maintained to some extent the regular release of the journal, we simultaneously feel sad that we have not yet fulfilled our ambition to make the journal regionally and globally recognized.

It is worthy to mention that world literature recruits thousands of scholastic journals. Only journals that are indexed in the major journals' database, namely Scopus and Clarivate Analytics, and attained higher visibility through wider access, and larger citation scores are ranked high impact, top scholastic journals. In an attempt to make KCMJ a unique journal and encourage researchers and postgraduates to publish their manuscripts in the journal, dynamic steps were to be set and followed during the antecedent two decades. With tremendous respect and appreciation to the preceding editorial boards of the journal, the journey of the journal was regrettably slow and swinging during the past decade and the major part of the second decade. However, it was more sustainable and productive over the last two years with the establishment of a new editorial board. The progress achieved was multifaceted and it involved the following aspects: changes in the scope (medicine and medical sciences), design

(reshaping the journal's architecture and introducing new sections), submission guidelines, reviewing process, processing and publication fees, and publication schedule of the journal; indexing of the journal in the Iraqi academic scientific journals (IASJ), Google scholar citation, CrossRef, Researchgate, directory of open access journals (DOAJ), digital object identifier (DOI) system, open access scholarly publishers association (OASPA); promoting the scientific integrity of the journal content using Turnitin software for plagiarism detection and prevention; issuing the journal three times annually; release of the journal in print and electronic formats; adding to the editorial board a group of guest editors of reputable academicians and researchers from esteemed medical colleges and distinguished hospitals; distribution of the journal free of cost to medical colleges and research centers inside the country; attaining the interest of the readers and researchers across the country and to a lesser extent abroad; and finally increasing the number of the online access and citation of the articles published in the journal. Despite accomplishing the above-mentioned inspiring achievements, we still believe that the AKCMJ is still in its infancy as the journal is not yet indexed in the biggest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed world literature. Efforts are directed to fulfill the requirements essential in indexing the journal in the Scopus database and we are optimistic that we could achieve that goal in 2023. Fulfillment of that goal is expected to positively inspire us and facilitate our endeavors to index the journal in Clarivate Analytics.

On looking forward to receiving continuous support from the deanship of the AKCM and ongoing contributions from the internal and external researchers, the KCMJ could steadily and strenuously make a forward advance marching ahead into the silver anniversary of the journal release with the objectives of indexing the journal in the world database of scholastic journals, fulfilling wider visibility and higher citation, and publishing four issues per year.

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