

Publisher's Note

SELF AUDIT FOR THE YEAR 2000 AND 2001

The title of this publication was changed to "Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences" with effect from January 1st 2000 while its size was enlarged effective January 2001 to give it a much better and impressive look. During the last two years Managing Committee of the Editorial Board has been meeting quite frequently while full Editorial Board meetings were held at Karachi and Lahore. Similar meetings are now planned to be organized during the Year 2002. The objective of having frequent meetings of the Editorial Board and the Managing Committee is to get their input, benefit from their views and suggestions to further improve the quality and standard of the Journal.

During the last meetings members of the Editorial Board had offered some very useful suggestions. Some of those have been implemented while others are under active consideration and will be implemented as soon as the resources permit. In order to make PJMS an important regional medical publication in South East Asia, efforts have been made to induct overseas members in the Editorial Board mostly from this region. Search for more enlightened medical writers, academicians and research scientist who can actively contribute to the journal and help further improve its standard still continues. However it is time to do some self-audit for the last two years as to the number of manuscripts received for publication, those accepted for publication, types of manuscripts and the areas from where they were received.

On the whole as compared to late 90s, the number of manuscripts being received for publication has decreased. Strict peer review system that we follow is the main reason. Manu-

scripts, which were not approved for publication by the Reviewers and Referees, were returned to the authors with the reviewer's comments. In some cases the authors of those manuscripts felt the reviewers were rather harsh hence they were not willing to make up the deficiencies to improve the quality of their write ups. This prompted some individuals and institutions to start their own publications. As such most of those manuscripts, which were rejected by standard journals got published in those journals that do not have a peer review system at all. As a result the receipt of manuscripts has decreased which has also helped ease lot of pressure on the limited space available.

As shown in Table-I, the total number of new manuscripts received during the Year 2000 were forty-five as compared to fifty-nine received in 2001. This was in addition to 35 and 42 manuscripts, which were already under process during the same years respectively. Only thirty out of this total of 80 (37.5%) manuscripts were accepted for publication during the Year 2000. These were the manuscripts, which were accepted without any revision, hence labeled as primary acceptance. For the Year 2001, thirty-two manuscripts out of 101 (31.68%) were accepted without any revision. The reviewers and

Table - I: Number of Manuscripts

	2000	2001
No. of new manuscripts received	45	59
Manuscripts already under process	35	42
Primary acceptance	30	32
Revision accepted	23	27
Manuscripts finally rejected	16	27
Overall acceptance rate	66.25%	58.41%

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Referees helped some authors to re-write their manuscripts. Hence after revision, another twenty-three manuscripts were accepted during the Year 2000 and twenty-seven in the Year 2001. As such the overall acceptance rate for the Year 2000 was 66.25% and for the Year 2001 58.41%. Sixteen manuscripts during the Year 2000 while twenty seven during 2001 were finally rejected.

Table-II gives the details of the type of manuscripts accepted for publication during the Year 2000 and 2001. Original articles form the bulk of the manuscripts accepted in both the years i.e. 26 and 25 respectively followed by Editorials, Case Reports, Review Articles and Special Communications. During the Year 2001, a number of new sections were added to the contents to make the journal more informative for the healthcare professionals. Hence apart from increase in the number of letters received for pub-

Table - II: Details of Manuscripts Published during 2000-2001

	2000	2001
Editorials	7	6
Leading Articles	1	5
Original Articles	26	25
Review Articles	5	2
Case Reports	6	6
Drug Trials	-	2
Emerging Issues	-	1
Short Communication	5	2
Letters	3	4
Sounding Board for Debate	-	1
Symposium /Conference Proceedings	-	1
Travel Notes	-	1
Family Practice	-	1
Students Section	-	1
Index	-	1
Total	53	59

lication, we had Drug Trials, Emerging Issues, Sounding Board for Debates on important issues, Symposium and Conference Proceedings under the title of CME besides Travel Notes. Also added were the section on Family Practice and for Students to encourage them to publish their work.

As expected, maximum number of manuscripts were received from two major academic centres in Pakistan i.e. Karachi and Lahore during both the years 2000 as well as 2001. Table-III gives the details of the cities in all the four provinces from where the manuscripts were received. The number of manuscripts received from overseas has almost doubled from five to

Table - III: Geographical Distribution of Manuscripts Published during 2000-2001

	2000	2001
PUNJAB		
Lahore	14	14
Rawalpindi-Islamabad	6	5
Multan	-	1
Faisalabad	-	1
Bahawalpure	1	1
Dera Ghazi Khan	-	2
Total	21	24
SINDH		
Karachi	22	20
Larkana	1	-
Hyderabad	-	1
Mirpurkhas	-	1
Total	23	22
NWFP		
Peshawar	2	3
Total	2	3
BALUCHISTAN		
Quetta	2	-
Total	2	-

ten during the Year 2001, which is indeed heartening. Table-IV lists the countries from where these write-ups were received.

Now we also have the Online edition of Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences ISSN 1681-715X Abbreviated key title: Pak. j. med. sci. (Website: www.pulsepakistan.com/pakjmedsciences). This carries complete manuscripts published in the journal and it has resulted in lot of extra expenditures as well. The website is updated within a week's time of the publication of each issue. This has enabled the authors a much wider national as well as international

Table - IV: Number of Manuscripts Published from Overseas during 2000-2001

	2000	2001
UK	1	-
USA	1	3
Bangladesh	2	2
Oman	1	1
Phillipines	-	1
Nepal	-	1
Saudi Arabia	-	1
Malaysia	-	1
Total	5	10

readership while the research scientists all over the world will have an easy access to the write-ups published in PJMS. We have also started accepting letters on e-mail while henceforth we will ensure to add the e-mail address of the authors which will be much more convenient for those who wish to correspond with them. We are also requesting the authors that in future they must submit the manuscript on computer diskette in addition to two printed copies.

Keeping in view the increase in the cost of production, we have been forced much against our wishes to slightly increase the publication charges which will be Rs.1000/- (one thousand only) with effect from March 1st 2002. Similarly overseas contributors will have to pay US\$50/- (fifty only) per manuscript once it is accepted for publication. Cost of films, transparencies if any will be additional. Colour printing is still more expensive but at times we have to incorporate coloured pictures as desired by the authors. Two printed copies of the journal are supplied to the main author. The authors and co-authors can order for additional copies of the journal at a concessional price of Rs. 150/- per copy at the time of returning the computer print out after proof reading.

On the whole the situation seems to be quite encouraging because there has been a gradual improvement in the quality of manuscripts received for publication. Not only that, a vast majority of the authors who do send us their manuscripts are helped in rewriting their manuscripts for which we are extremely grateful to the Members of the Editorial Board for sparing their precious time for this academic activity. A lot more needs to be done particularly the number of contributions from some members of the Editorial Board itself has not been much. As suggested during the last Editorial Board meetings, we expect that every member will contribute at least one or two manuscripts in a year. It is the quality of contents which eventually determines the status of any publication and who will be better knowledgeable than the Editorial Board members themselves to share their vast knowledge and experience in their respective fields. We sincerely hope that they will find some time and enrich the contents with their personal contributions.

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