

From Quarterly to Bi-Monthly publication

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We had set some objectives for the Year 2013 and are happy to report that we have achieved and accomplished a few of them. Firstly after signing an agreement with CrossRef of USA, effective January-March 2013 issue, all the manuscripts published in Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences now carry a DOI Number and Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences is the first medical journal from Pakistan to have acquired this facility. It offers many advantages to the authors. One can go to the net, put in this DOI number and get quick access to the full text manuscript. One does not have to go to the website of the journal because sometimes the Journal website may not be functioning or there could be some other technical problems. With CrossRef this is a permanent record in their data base. Of course for acquiring this facility we had to make some investment to get registered and will have to pay some charges every year. But it ensures easy access to the authors with increased visibility and readership.

Secondly authors are always keen to get their manuscripts published as soon as they make a submission though peer review takes some time and there is no short cut. However, even after the manuscripts are approved, their publication is delayed as we can accommodate only a certain number of manuscripts. By changing the frequency of publication of Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences from Quarterly to Bi-Monthly with effect from April 2013 after getting permission from the Government of Sindh vide letter No. CK/HMS/Press/97/13 dated March 25th 2013, early publication of approved manuscripts will be possible. Even in the past we have been publishing some additional issues to clear the backlog but now since we will publish six issues in a year, the waiting period for publication will be reduced. In addition we have already started publication ahead of print of the manuscripts which are approved for publication after peer review. All this is to help the authors.

Some more efforts are under way to further improve the quality of the manuscripts accepted for publication, accelerate the peer review process and increase visibility of the journal. If the authors are careful, carefully read and follow instructions to authors before making submission, make complete submission on the website, do not forget to submit Letter of Undertaking signed by all authors and Ethics Committee, Institutional Review Board approval of the study protocols, where needed, respond to reviewer's comments and suggestions quickly if they have to revise their manuscripts, it can further reduce the time of processing and publication of the manuscripts. On our part we are trying our best to follow an author friendly policy, improve communication with the authors and reviewers and do whatever we can within our limited resources to be as helpful as possible. Publication of a journal is a team work in which the members of the Editorial Board and Reviewers play an important role. We are extremely grateful to them for their continued patronage, help and assistance in this academic activity.

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