

Editorial Policy

The Right to International Papers and Contributors

Urol J. 2007;4:129.
www.uj.unrc.ir

Urology Journal is an open access online journal that aims to expeditiously publish basic and clinical research studies related to urological issues from different cultural communities. A review of titles of papers in the last 12 months should amply illustrate our international nature. Scientific publishing has been revolutionized in the past decade. With the explosive growth of the internet, the introduction of online publishing, and the advent of electronic printing technology, it is decisive that research findings be published from all over the world. The journal welcomes all types of articles related to urological issues. Its timely publication and high visibility are the two most important features that make this journal different from other traditional journals in the region. This is only the beginning of a long journey. Our principal aim is to increase the number of corresponding editors from different countries and different regions of the world, although we would like to see an increase in peer reviewers who have, like corresponding editors, an understanding of these issues. International participation will also encourage greater opportunities for publications from researchers from different cultures which is itself worthy.

Some readers of international journals know something about global inequalities but may not fully realize their extent. Although prejudice can explain part of the imbalance, there are also specific measures that may increase the likelihood of a paper being accepted in international journals. These include the need to invest in the quality of the written text, and to show empathy with editors and readers, emphasizing the contribution of the manuscript to the international literature. We can go some way towards greater equality of opportunity from different regions; by improved submissions system, careful assessment, detailed recommendations for revision and sympathetic consideration of revised versions. We should increase research capacity and “manuscript development” skills. The worldwide indexing of a journal is potentially a great boon and

a leveler, but the top ranking journals could do more to improve regional journals in different part of the world so that their journals can be indexed. Medical journal editors have a main endeavor, publishing of a reliable and readable journal, produced with due respect for the stated aims of the journal and for costs. It is interesting that almost all journals like to describe themselves as international. At present, medical journals, tend to pursue excellence rather than fairness and in doing this their eyes are focused far too closely on the impact factor of their journals as the only adequate measure of worth. All editors have the obligation to support the concept of editorial freedom and to draw major transgressions of such freedom to the attention of the international medical community. The rapid growth in the number of contributions from all over the world to the international medical literature shows that editorial prejudice, although often present, can be effectively offset by research with solid methodology and good-quality presentation. Academic, clinical, legal, and administrative bodies foist an authoritative role on peer reviewed professional journals. Much of this is driven by the opinion that the journals are “impartial.” If a journal wishes to reject this role, then the editors should decline loudly. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) launches a new code of conduct for editors (www.publicationethics.org.uk). The code comprises a set of standards for good editorial practice. The two professions most closely allied to medical journal editing, medicine and the press, have well-established systems for self-regulation. However, self-regulation is a privilege not a right. It brings with it responsibilities to establish and enforce standards of good practice. The COPE code of conduct is a first step. Recent world events have served to emphasize our interdependence and remind us that we cannot escape into separate worlds. Perhaps it is this, more than any other perception, which will break down the barriers between the 90% and 10%.

Mohammad Reza Safarinejad

Associate Editor, *Urology Journal*