Indian Journal of Surgery – few steps into the future

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As the Editor of the Indian Journal of Surgery, I am getting a lot of queries regarding taking effective steps to make IJS indexed in PubMed, especially after our association with Springer. Even I have received a letter, published in this issue, from Dr. Udvardi the past president of ASI and chairman / editor of IJS where he has shared his dream of seeing IJS as an indexed journal. As an editor I truly understand the importance of being recognized as an authoritative and above all a journal with a good impact factor. However, there are a few areas that needs to be worked upon. It is only when that we are sure that the IJS has created a niche for its own through high-quality content, along with a good track record of timely publication that we would contact the relevant indexing agency for considering us for inclusion in their database.

Recently I even received a letter, published in this issue, from Dr. Srivastava, professional colleague from a very prestigious institute of India, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). He is quite correct when he mentions that IJS loses out to the internationally acclaimed indexed journals, and the articles from reputed organizations, even from India let alone from outside of India, finds its way to IJS once they are rejected by indexed journals. IJS receives a few articles from abroad, but our feeling is that IJS is obviously not the first choice of the contributors.

Inclusion in PubMed can only be achieved through effective and planned strategies towards improving the journal content and the submission types. We understand that we lack in content quality and even we lag behind in the number of citations that we receive from other journals, our timeli-

ness in print issue is often questioned. I think our editorial content is good enough, but because we are not a specialized journal we do not get the attention that a specialized journal usually attracts. However, I see this constraint as our strength and this is exemplified by the fact that we have been effectively catering to a vast cross-section of the Indian medical community.

Time has come when we have to do a SWOT and find ways to attract quality manuscripts. We are determined to improve the quality of the articles, and it is only then that we can increase the citations of IJS in other journals, and make an impact among the indexing agencies. The National Library of Medicine of United States mentions, “Scientific merit of a journal's content is the primary consideration in selecting a journal for indexing. The validity, importance, originality, and contribution to the coverage of the field of the overall contents of each title are the key factors considered in recommending a title for indexing, whatever the intended purpose and audience”[1]. Considering the above our role as editors has become highly crucial. We cannot accept articles going by the names of the institute, but by the sole merit of the article. We still believe that the distance between the reviewer and the author should be maintained and that if a reviewer has a query, it can be worked out through the Editorial office or the Chairman / Editor.

We are taking a few calculative steps towards the future. We understand that indexing services acknowledge the journals if the research articles have a low turnaround time. Keeping this in mind, we have decided to publish all the accepted articles online on Springerlink, even before the article is included in a print issue. Not to worry, the articles will be cited through a unique Document Object Identifier (DOI) number which would be unique to a particular article. By this we intend to clear up all the article backlogs and also make the findings available worldwide within a short duration. We expect that we would have a lot of articles in the pipeline and eventually we can maintain the ever elusive “timeliness”.

With high-end Springerlink feature like linking of each article through CrossRef and also its availability through Google, the profile of the journal is certain to grow. All our submissions are peer-reviewed and the articles are processed through www.editorialmanager.com/ijos, which enables the

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reviewers to check plagiarism with the aid of Google title and author search, and also the PubMed search.

To strengthen our content base we plan to bring out thematic special issues/ supplements in the coming months. In October 2008 we have planned a special issue of Gastrointestinal Surgery. In times to come you would find even more editorials on happenings in the specialized sectors of Surgery.

Dear authors, we at the Indian Journal of Surgery are all geared up to take your research to the next level by assuring you maximum visibility that an international journal may

give you. Therefore, it is now time that you contribute your best to IJS. Invest your trust on us for a couple of years and we assure you that we will make IJS a journal with an Impact Factor! We are looking forward to having your submissions to your journal – the Indian Journal of Surgery.

References

1. Fact Sheet MEDLINE® Journal Selection <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/jsel.html>