

SCIE, Impact Factor, Journal Volume and Quality

As was announced previously in 2007 and in the first issue of 2008, the *Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences* has been officially indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) beginning with the first issue of 2007. Currently, a total of 7,167 journals are indexed in SCIE and 24 of these originate from Turkey. We hope this number will increase in the near future.

Though there are many other means by which to evaluate a journal, the most widely accepted method is that of the impact factor (IF). The first official IF of the journal will be evaluated at the end of 2009, with the results released sometime in 2010. For the purpose of IF analyses, the number of citations in 2009 of articles published in 2007 and 2008 will be divided by the total number of articles published in those years.

I personally believe that the IF represents not the quality of the journal per se but rather the quality of the articles published in that specific journal during that specific time period. I have mentioned previously that our main target is to receive a high IF following the first evaluation, since it provides the only means for comparison of *Turkish J Med Sci* with other journals in the field. However, the IF is actually affected by many factors other than just the quality of the articles, among them the accessibility of the articles or the journals, etc.

The number of submitted articles is steadily increasing. We call upon the medical scientific community of Turkey for assistance in the evaluation of the articles, without which it will be impossible to process these articles in a timely manner with the efforts of only a small number of devoted people on the editorial board. Therefore, we invite anyone who is interested to submit their curricula vitae and contact details directly to the journal.

Looking at the formula used for IF analyses, one might say that high volume may decrease the IF score and that the publication of less articles is one option for obtaining a higher score. However, we believe that a higher score is only possible by ensuring the submission and publication of articles of high scientific quality. Therefore, with the strong belief in our Peer Review system in preventing a long waiting period before publication, I have decided to increase the number of articles for publication in each issue.

The current issue contains 12 Original articles, 4 Case Reports and 1 Letter to the Editor. As the number of case reports awaiting evaluation is quite high, we kindly ask that no further case reports be submitted until further announcements. Notification will be included on the journal website as well.

As Editor, I have every confidence that we will reach our targets through everyone's devoted efforts. Over the course of this long journey, your support is required at every step. This is your journal and only through your valuable contributions will it gain in distinction.

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