

EDITORIAL UPDATE

At the beginning of a new year it is expected for the editor to look back at the achievements and problems encountered in running the Lebanese Medical Journal during the previous year to better steer this medical publication to suit readers expectations.

What were the achievements ?

During the year 2004, the Lebanese Medical Journal has continued to receive an increasing number of excellent manuscripts in various fields of medicine. However in order to maintain the high standard of published material the rejection rate has been around 40%. Further, the time between submission and publication has been substantially reduced due primarily to improvement in the review process and selfless efforts of the reviewers.

During the past year, in addition to in-depth reviews and original research articles, a special issue devoted to Medical Urology has been already published.

In the forthcoming volume, the second special issue, devoted to oncologic and surgical aspects of urology will be published. Further, a new CEM corner will be created.

What about the problems ?

Despite significant improvement achieved during the past several years, the LMJ faces several problems. First, the lag time between submission and printing remains long. Every effort is made to shorten this lag time by increasing the number of reviewers as well as the number of published issues in order to reduce or even prevent the backlog of accepted articles. Second, one of the major shortcomings is the lack of a website for the journal. The editorial board is working in creating a special website page for the LMJ in the already established website for the Lebanese Order of Physicians. I am confident that in the very near future, this website will become operational and published articles will appear online. Third, the LMJ lacks an impact factor which is used as an index of the importance of a publication on scientific information. The editorial board is evaluating several ideas in order to create an impact factor. Any suggestions from the readers will be highly appreciated.

It is obvious that these achievements would not have been possible without the collaboration, competence, and zeal of my colleagues on the editorial board and secretarial staff. Further, any success that the LMJ has experienced has also been due to the support and scientific contributions of the readers of this publication. To all of you, please accept my thanks and appreciation.

Adel E. BIRBARI
Editor in Chief