

EDITORIAL

EDITING AND PUBLICATION PROCESSES: PROBLEMS, FRUSTRATIONS AND CHALLENGES

<http://www.lebanesemedicaljournal.org/articles/57-1/editorial.pdf>

I would like to start this editorial by wishing members of the editorial board, colleagues in our medical community and editorial staff, Michele Valligny and Jacqueline Chahine, for a fruitful and peaceful year. I would like to thank all reviewers both within and outside Lebanon for the hard work and effort in performing an excellent evaluation process.

The Lebanese Medical Journal remains a respectable scientific publication, as attested by the increasing number of subscription requests by regional and international scientific and medical organizations. However, the editorial and publication processes, as with most scientific and medical publications has not been smooth, but fraught with difficulties and problems, namely review process, the relationship between the authors, reviewers and the editorial board, the impact factor and last but not least, financial aspects.

The evaluation process requires selection of suitable reviewers, well versed in the field of the manuscript under consideration, interested and willing to provide a well argued assessment within a rather short time frame. The reviewers should also attempt to provide an objective assessment without bias and conflict of interest. It is not always easy to find reviewers with such qualifications in various fields of the submitted articles in our medical community.

Peer reviewing is an important process which heightens the status of the Journal. Although most authors are compliant with the comments of the reviewers, differing opinions between some authors and reviewers are not infrequent and may be due either to careless and superficial judgment or well founded viewpoints based on different interpretation of the data under evaluation. These different aspects of the review process are usually recognized by the editorial board and may often require an additional opinion which leads to delay in final decision and acceptance of the submitted manuscript.

The scientific impact and quality of a journal is an obvious consideration of any publication. **The impact factor** has become a popular measure to assess the quality of the journal. It is based on the average number of citations received by the journal in which investigators have been publishing. This requires devoting more space for publication of reviews, updates, and guidelines, which are likely to receive most citations and therefore helping the impact factor to rise. It is obvious that articles describing original investigation likely to receive less citation are more important for the advance of science.

The Lebanese Medical Journal still lacks an impact factor. The aim of the editors is to convince the impacting authorities that the Lebanese Medical Journal deserves an impact factor as it is publishing not only original articles, but indepth reviews and special issues devoted to important advances in various fields of medicine.

Despite these problems that are common to all scientific medical publications, the Lebanese Medical Journal remains an important tool for continuing education and publication of original research being performed in Lebanon.

Further, we are looking forward to continued efforts on improving our national medical scientific publication.

Adel E. BERBARI
Editor in Chief

Retraction : The following article from the *Lebanese Medical Journal*, "Current trends in medical ethics education" by Dr Michel Daher, published online July-September 2006 in volume 54.3, has been retracted by agreement between the author, the journal Editor in Chief, Adel Berbari, MD, and the Publisher, Scientific Committee of the Lebanese Order of Physicians. The retraction has been agreed due to substantial overlap with the following article : "Current trends in Teaching Ethics of Healthcare Practices", authored by Dr. Hattab, *Developing World Bioethics*, 2004 Volume 4, Issue 2, pages 160-172.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/118814222/PDFSTART>



Adel E. Berbari

AWARD

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to announce that Dr. Ali Bazarbachi has become a Laureate of the French National Academy of Medicine 2008 and received the Prix Aimée et Raymond Mande for his work on targeted therapy on human leukemia on December 16, 2008.

The French National Academy of Medicine, founded in 1820, comprises 130 members, highly selected from the medical and scientific research community in France. It presents many awards annually for the most outstanding medical and scientific breakthroughs. It should be noted that the prize received by Dr. Bazarbachi is one of the major and most prominent awards bestowed by the Academy.

Dr. Ali Bazarbachi is professor of hematology-oncology in the Department of Internal Medicine and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit Director at AUBMC, in addition to being Assistant Dean for Research.

Dr. Ali Bazarbachi and his team work on determining the deficiencies in cancer cell programs and on finding targeted therapies for those defects that will eliminate malignant cells without harming the normal cells in the body.

His research has led to the discovery of successful treatments currently used to treat incurable types of leukemia and lymph nodes cancer.

Adel E. Barbari