

Publication Turn-Around Time

In current era, publication in a peer review journals is one of the most important indicators reflecting scholastic activity. This indicator is also required for professional development and career growth of authors who are either working or intend to join an academic pathway. For every author, early publication of the manuscript is a universal wish and turn-around time from submission to publication of manuscript varies among medical journals. As a matter of fact, peer review journal with high impact factors have a longer turn-around time than an open access journal which have publication charges.

The turn-around depends upon several factors but most important is the response of reviewer's to an invitation for review from editor. Most of the peer review journals send invitation letters to at least 02 reviewers with a request to respond about their willingness or not in 3-5 days. Obviously decline from a reviewer results in waste of these days which might propagate in case of decline from 2nd or 3rd reviewers. The sentinel reasons for decline from reviewers are either mismatch of manuscript with their expertise or they are already engaged in another manuscript. To address these genuine issue, it is imperative for reviewers to inform the editor about their changing expertise over the time and also editor to not send a second manuscript to its reviewer.

Pakistan Journal of Radiology (PJR) has performed exceedingly well during last 02 years. From October-2014 till December 2015, it has published 14 issues to clear backlog and also achieved a milestone by issuing a print-ahead issue. This remarkable performance in "frequency and time domains" are solely due to the very sincere and tireless contribution by its reviewers. The average turn-around time of a manuscript in PJR is 4-6 weeks and delays are also caused failure of some authors to upload their revised manuscripts as per reviewer's comments. PJR acknowledges the sincere contribution of its valued reviewers by sending them an acknowledgment letter. This letter is used by our valued reviewers to claim for CME credits. It is also imperative for editor to include more reviewers in reviewer's bank to meet the progressive influx of manuscripts and to meet timeliness of publications of eligible manuscripts as per author's desires. In recognition to this unprecedented performance by PJR, it has been indexed by WHO-IMEME, EMBASE, EBSCO, Eurasia, and HEC-Pak in these 02 years. Obviously this is the beginning of a journey which has no limits and we are optimistic that with this coherent move PJR would cross more milestones ahead. As mentioned above turn-around time of manuscripts is significantly shorter in open access and those journals which demand charges for publication. This trend is certainly not matters for some authors but discouraging for authors from developing world like Pakistan. Medical journals without financial motives are not less than a blessing and show the dedication and sincerity of the editorial team and their reviewers.

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