

Saudi Medical Journal

Editors

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Saudi Medical Journal (SMJ) is looking forward to enter the new century with a tone of optimism. In the last 20 years, the Journal has evolved as one of the leading scientific educational journals in the Kingdom and abroad. It was first published in July 1979 with 2 editions a year in London, United Kingdom. Today, SMJ is published monthly, processed, edited and printed inside the Kingdom.

Leadership. HRH Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz who is the Patron of the Journal has been a tremendous support to the Journal and the staff. General Abd El Hameed El-Faraiddi, the Founder of the Journal, opted to retire this year. He must feel proud of what he has achieved in the Journal. His vision and leadership allow the Journal to crawl, stand, walk and even run equipped with all necessary foundations for continuity and excellence. The leadership is assigned to General Ketab Al Otaibi who is not new to the Journal as he is the Consulting Editor and has already been involved in the major decisions of promoting the Journal while he was the Programme Director at the Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital (RAFH). His vision and leadership will guarantee the excellent continuing of the Journal.

Editorial Staff. Previously, the Journal went through turmoils and even crises due to rapid changes in the Editorial Staff. This was a nightmare for the editors if they wanted to keep the high standard of the Journal. Now, we have not only enthusiastic and experienced staff, but an excellent database and infrastructure, which guarantees the continuity and copes with any

changes in the Editorial Staff. The Staff and the existing system make the work of the Editors an enjoyable one. The credit goes to all the Staff and the honor this year goes to the Editorial Staff. Although all of them deserve this honor, we selected Mrs Joyce E. Figuerres, Editorial Assistant, to be nominated as the Employee of the Year.

Editorial Board. The role of the Editorial Board has been extended and they are asked to evaluate the Journal regularly. They are expected to write review articles or editorials. They will serve for 2 years initially and can be extended to two terms for 2 years, for a maximum of 6 years. This will guarantee a mixture of continuity and renovation. This year, we invited G. J. Ebrahim (UK), Saleh Al Amri (KSU), Abdullah Al Rabea, (KFNGH) and Francesco Marotto (Italy) to be on the Editorial Board. None of the existing Editorial Board retired this year.

Reviewers. Peer-reviewers are the ghost editors who are behind the success of the Journal. Last year, the honor was designated to them, as there were 43 of them who reviewed 3 or more articles. This year, only 4 have reviewed 3 articles, this indicates how extensive our reviewer database is. Seventy-seven percent of reviewers send their reviews within 4 weeks, however 23% still do not respond despite 2 reminders. We always review our database and keep those reviewers who are enthusiastic. Reviewers now are asked to inform the Editors about any conflict of interest in any reviewed materials sent to them.