

Saudi Medical Journal 35 Year Anniversary

Saudi Arabia's first scientific journal is marking its milestone year this month. We take this opportunity to honor our proud history and past achievements.

Thirty-five years ago, our journey started from an insightful vision of the late Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz who blessed and supported its founding. The journal was published annually and during that time, the journal pages included scientific contributions from the editor and invited authors only, few article types and some practical procedures, Saudi Medical Topics and hospital news. Editorial operations and publication was based in London then.

By the year 1990, operations and publication was moved to Riyadh. Digital technology has changed the way of communication. From snail mail delivery of letters and peer review requests, we shifted to digital mail. In 1999, Saudi Medical Journal could be contacted through electronic mail at smjns.ksa@zajil.net. This change may account for the increased submission of manuscripts and regular circulation of the journal.

Along with these advances, the journal became accessible through our website, www.smj.org.sa followed by indexing in National Library of Medicine, PubMed and other digital libraries in 2000.

The journal's presence and influence radiated across the region encouraging the birth of other local journals. These initiatives are attributed to our dear directors and editors. Their leadership and long-standing commitment to promoting scientific research are responsible for attracting landmark publications and establishing an esteemed reputation for the journal. The dedication and breadth of experience of the editorial team enhances the editorial operations. These and more are the pillars of success of Saudi Medical Journal.

Five years ago, a great number of submitted articles were purely experimental and basic research. After the journal clearly outlined the scope of publication pertaining to basic research with clear clinical implications the number of submissions decreased by 25% from 1,475 in 2009 to 1,110 in 2013. Despite the still considerably large number of submissions, we have a low acceptance rate and 80% average rejection rate. Submitted manuscripts can be rejected during the initial review if the article falls outside the scope of the journal. Decisions for rejection on peer reviewed manuscripts

are mostly based on the low scientific evidence of the article, articles not fulfilling the criteria of the Journal, revisions not completed by a given deadline, plagiarism issues, and those missing necessary requirements for publication. Over the last 5 years, we have maintained a modest number of published articles to ensure high selection of quality articles and to maximize space limitations (Figure 1).

Despite substantial peer review, statistical review process and high standard of revision and editing requirements we have maintained an excellent turnover time from submission to publication (Figure 2). Saudi Medical Journal is always striving to accelerate the processing time from received to acceptance.

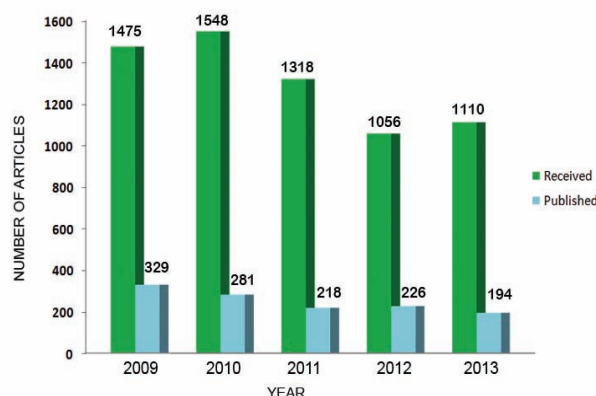


Figure 1 - Received and published articles over 5-years (2009-2013).

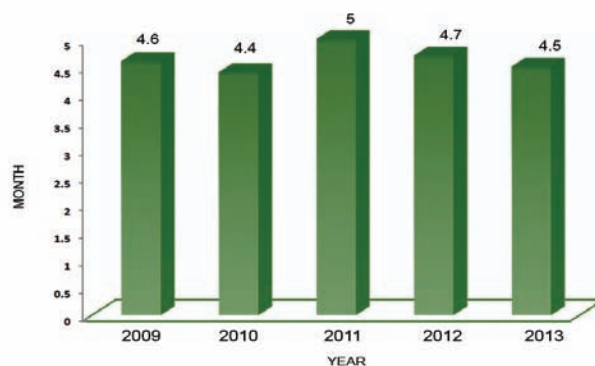


Figure 2 - Turnover time from submission to publication over 5-years (2009-2013).

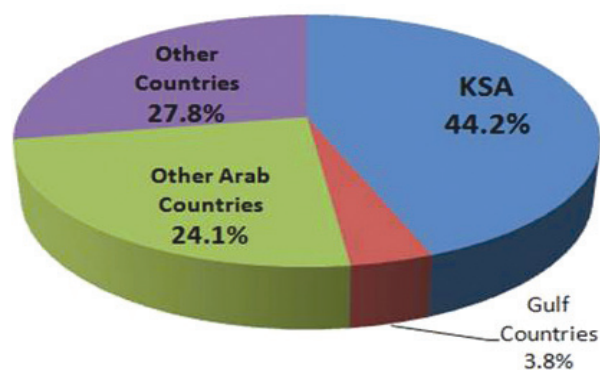


Figure 3 - Published articles by countries of origin over 5-years (2009-2013).

The greatest numbers of published articles were from Saudi Arabia, 3.8% from other Gulf Countries, 24.1% from other Arab Countries and 27.8% were from other countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and America. The geographical distribution of published articles demonstrates the international interest received by the journal from these countries (Figure 3).

From the published articles, we are pleased to present a selection of the 30 most cited articles. Common public health problems such as hypertension, obesity, diabetes, and infectious disease are found to draw high interests from the scientific community. Remarkably more than half of the most cited articles were local contributions (Appendix 1). Living up to its name, Saudi Medical Journal gives priority for research covering indigenous disease, epidemiology, common healthcare management challenges, and public health relating to the region. Knowing and adhering to these values, we aim to support, improve, and promote research that enriches the local knowledge.

On this 35th anniversary, we commend the researchers for their significant contribution. We are also grateful to our referees and board members for their collaborative efforts and for the noble voluntary work that maintains the standard of papers we published.

We are planning a series of celebratory activities in the coming months, which will include an opening ceremony of our new premises; organizing a developmental course for the editors and journal staff, and an annual meeting for the Editorial Board Members.

The journal has come a long way and the journey continues. We look forward to another milestone year, and we will continue to strive for improvements and innovations, as we remain true to the founder's vision.

Happy anniversary to all our readers, authors and reviewers. Kudos to the editorial team for all that we have accomplished.

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Appendix 1 - Top cited articles from 2004-2014 as of May 2014.

Authors	Article title	Issue	Total no. of citations ¹
Al-Nozha et al ²	Diabetes mellitus in Saudi Arabia	2004	121
Al-Nozha et al ³	Obesity in Saudi Arabia	2005	63
Ozguner et al ⁴	Biological and morphological effects on the reproductive organ of rats after exposure to electromagnetic field	2005	46
Al-Marouf RA & Al-Sharbatti SS ⁵	Serum zinc levels in diabetic patients and effect of zinc supplementation on glycemic control of type 2 diabetics	2006	42
El-Hazmi ⁶	Prevalence of HBV, HCV, HIV-1, 2 and HTLV-I/II infections among blood donors in a teaching hospital in the Central region of Saudi Arabia	2004	40
Zubaid et al ⁷	Clinical presentation and outcomes of acute coronary syndromes in the gulf registry of acute coronary events (Gulf RACE)	2008	37
Al-Nozha et al ⁸	Hypertension in Saudi Arabia	2007	36
Al-Nozha et al ⁹	Metabolic syndrome in Saudi Arabia	2005	36
El-Mouzan et al ¹⁰	Regional variations in the prevalence of consanguinity in Saudi Arabia	2007	35
Al-Nozha et al ¹¹	Prevalence of physical activity and inactivity among Saudis aged 30-70 years. <i>A population-based cross-sectional study</i>	2007	35
Al-Nozha et al ¹²	Coronary artery disease in Saudi Arabia	2004	34
Reiter RJ & Korkmaz A ¹³	Clinical aspects of melatonin	2008	33
Al-Turki YA ¹⁴	Smoking habits among medical students in Central Saudi Arabia	2006	29
Soker M & Kervancioglu M ¹⁵	Plasma concentrations of NT-pro-BNP and cardiac troponin-I in relation to doxorubicin-induced cardiomyopathy and cardiac function in childhood malignancy	2005	27
Hadidi KA & Mohammed FI ¹⁶	Nicotine content in tobacco used in hubble-bubble smoking	2004	26
Hamamy et al ¹⁷	Consanguinity and genetic disorders. <i>Profile from Jordan</i>	2007	24
BaHamam ¹⁸	Assessment of sleep patterns, daytime sleepiness, and chronotype during Ramadan in fasting and nonfasting individuals	2005	24
Albarrak et al ¹⁹	Recovery from severe novel coronavirus infection	2012	23
Arman et al ²⁰	A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of metformin treatment for weight gain associated with initiation of risperidone in children and adolescents	2008	23
Panhotra et al ²¹	Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase-producing <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> hospital acquired bacteremia. <i>Risk factors and clinical outcome</i>	2004	23
Al-Maatouq et al ²²	Prevalence of osteoporosis among postmenopausal females with diabetes mellitus	2004	23
Bukhary et al ²³	Treatment of nosocomial meningitis due to a multidrug resistant <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> with intraventricular colistin	2005	22
Khatib FA & Shafagoy YA ²⁴	Metabolic alterations as a result of Ramadan fasting in non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus patients in relation to food intake	2004	22
Al-Lawati JA & Jousilahti PJ ²⁵	Prevalence and 10-year secular trend of obesity in Oman	2004	22
Ali MT & Bassiony MM ²⁶	Smoking in Saudi Arabia	2009	21
Gonullu et al ²⁷	Association of breast cancer and cytokine gene polymorphism in Turkish women	2007	21
Ahmad et al ²⁸	An evidence of high prevalence of Hepatitis C virus in Faisalabad, Pakistan	2007	21
Siddiqui AM & Kamfar HZ ²⁹	Prevalence of vitamin D deficiency rickets in adolescent school girls in Western region, Saudi Arabia	2007	21
Nasseri et al ³⁰	Intravenous immunoglobulin in ABO and Rh hemolytic diseases of newborn	2006	21
Al-Damegh et al ³¹	Cigarette smoking behavior among male secondary school students in the Central region of Saudi Arabia	2004	21