

# Saudi Medical Journal 2022

The pandemic has affected public health and scientific publication significantly, there was a dramatic rise in COVID-19 publications associated with a substantial decrease in non-COVID-19 research. Similar to last year, 25% of the papers published in Saudi Medical Journal (SMJ) were Covid-related articles; and 75% of which constitutes local contributions. We do encourage contributions from other parts of the globe to continue advancing the knowledge on Covid-19 related issues.

We hope in 2023 that the dark cloud of COVID-19 is fading away with the present implementation of laws, restrictions, and public health education.

Some publishing trends have emerged and become popular, especially during the start of the pandemic, one of them is publishing on preprint servers especially since Crossref began assigning DOIs to preprint in 2016.<sup>1</sup> Authors seek quick feedback, fast dissemination, citation, and the primacy of their work so they prefer to submit their preliminary, non-peer-reviewed articles to these repositories than the traditional journals. Submission to preprint servers is a personal publishing

choice of the author, the peer review process improves but does not eliminate incomplete reporting and spin, however, we at Saudi Medical Journal do not consider submissions of manuscripts posted in preprint servers and also do not consider the use of preprint references. Thus, we revised our policy when it comes to articles that were submitted to these repositories. Any material that has been publicly available, with a permanent identifier and citable will no longer be considered for submission.<sup>2</sup>

The journal follows the double-blind peer review policy so having a paper posted in preprint servers, publicly available and visible with DOI, with full details of authors such as ORCID will nullify the purpose of the double-blind policy we apply.

In early January 2022, the Saudi Medical Journal faced some technical issues with the submission system that probably affected the submission volume and a slight decline in citations.

Peer review is vital to maintain the integrity of science by critically assessing and validating the originality and

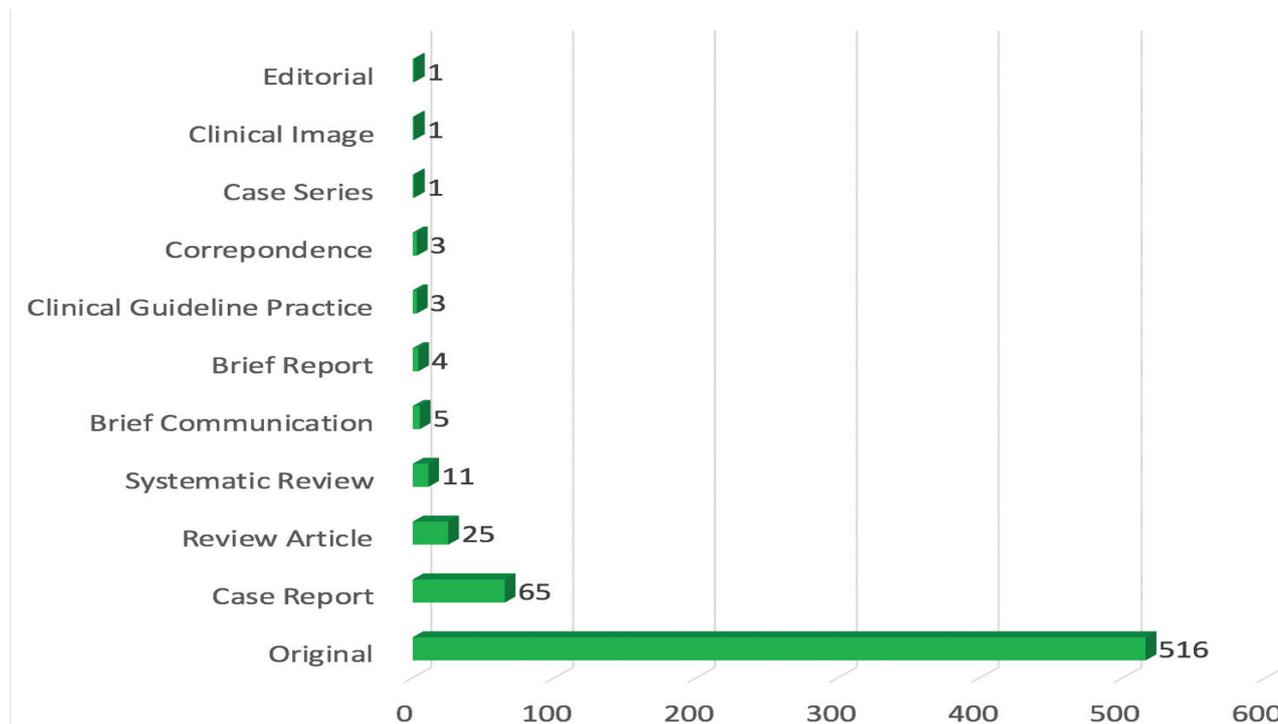


Figure 1 - Type of manuscripts received for the year 2022.

**Table 1** - Origin of “peer-reviewed” articles published in the Saudi Medical Journal for the year 2022.

Origins	n	%
KSA	108	(78.8)
Iraq	3	(2.2)
Iran	1	(0.7)
Egypt	2	(1.5)
Jordan	2	(1.5)
Turkey	23	(16.8)
UK	3	(2.2)
Libya	1	(0.7)
Malaysia	2	(1.5)
Mexico	1	(0.7)
China	12	(8.8)
Bahrain	1	(0.7)
Korea	3	(2.2)
Thailand	1	(0.7)
Indonesia	1	(0.7)
India	2	(1.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

**Table 2** - Average processing time frame of articles published in the Saudi Medical Journal for the year 2022.

Year	Received to Acceptance (Months)	Acceptance to Publications (Months)	Received to Publications (Months)
2022	2.6	1.2	3.8

scientific merit of the article before publication and dissemination of information, hence, we discourage preprint.

One of the struggles we faced in the peer-review process is keeping the reviewers complete the review of revised versions. Prior to the submission of the review, the reviewers are asked if should they wish to see the article again after it has been revised. Only the reviewers who agreed to see the revised version will be invited and very few reviewers are able to follow this workflow. When a reviewer declines to review the revised version or is not available, this causes lag in the decision process and leaves the editor the task to go over the suggestions of the reviewers. Despite all the technical innovations available, it is still difficult to attract qualified reviewers and establish a dedicated editorial board. Perhaps, a survey for reviewers regarding the evaluation of the revised will help us understand and improve our peer-review process

Other ways of addressing this challenge, Saudi Medical Journal highly recognize the reviewer's contribution to the peer review process. Apart from publishing their names in the yearly Editorial Message, we have activated Publons in our peer review system. Therefore, whenever a reviewer submits a review, they will be asked if they want to receive recognition on Publons.

Publons is a free platform that creates and verifies researchers' peer reviews and editorial contributions. It has joined the Web of Science, so it is linked directly to the Web of Science publication and peer review history. Anyone can register via the Web of Science.<sup>3</sup>

This year, Saudi Medical Journal and Neurosciences in collaboration with the Saudi Pediatric Neurology Society conducted a workshop at the “7th Saudi Pediatric Neurology Society Conference & Workshop.” Saudi Medical Journal's role in this scientific event was to educate participants on how to write a publishable

manuscript. Focusing on writing guidelines, peer review process, publishing tips, common reasons for rejection, and avoiding predatory journals. This overview of the publication processes is beneficial for research fellows and residents and all other health researchers.

Saudi Medical Journal pledges to continue providing educational events. As the event was a success and well received by the attendees, SMJ pledge to continue providing educational events.

*Annual statistics.* This year we received 635 manuscripts from which we processed 309 articles that have complied with the journal requirements (Figure 1). Over the past 12 issues, we have published one Editorial, 11 Systematic Reviews, and 516 Originals, with a total of 1285 pages. Approximately 78.8% of the papers we published were from the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia (Table 1). Our total rejection rate was 75% of which 51% were rejected at the initial decision. The average processing time frame of original articles in the year 2022 from received date to acceptance was 2.6 months, from acceptance to publication 1.2 months, and from received to publication 3.8 months (Table 2).

## References

1. Crossref. [Updated 2021; accessed 2022 Dec 20]. Available from: <https://www.crossref.org/blog/members-will-soon-be-able-to-assign-crossref-oids-to-preprints/>
2. Ninth International Congress on Peer Review and Scientific Publication. [Updated 2021; accessed 2022 Dec 20]. Available from: <https://peerreviewcongress.org/peer-review-congress-2022-program/>
3. Publons™. Clarivate. [Updated 2022; accessed 2022 Dec 20]. Available from: <https://publons.com/wos-op/publisher/1421/clarivate-analytics>

*Fahdah Alokaily, MD*  
*Editor-in-Chief*

## Editorial Message

Our thanks goes to the reviewers who have participated in the excellent review of manuscripts and books for the year 2022.

A. Seval Ozgu-Erdinc  
A.A. Gde Putra Semara Jaya  
Abdul Meshikhes  
Abdulaziz Mansoor Al Raimi  
Abdulbari Bener  
Abdulghani Alsaeed\*  
Abdulla Darwish  
Abdullah Abdulkareem  
Abdullah Abudayah  
Abdullah Alarfaj  
Abdullah Alkattan  
Abdullah Alkhenizan  
Abdullah Awadh  
Abdulmoein AlAgha  
Abdulmohsen Al-Elq\*  
Abdulmohsen Al-Zalabani  
Abdulrahman Alashkar  
Abeer Ali  
A. S. Chandrakumari  
Abuobaida Abukhelaif\*  
Adnan Mubarak  
Ahlam El Shikieri  
Ahmad Alsaeed  
Ahmed Abdel Moneim  
Ahmed Absi  
Ahmed Al Fagih  
Ahmed Al-Ameer  
Ahmed Alamri  
Ahmed Kadhum  
Ahmed Kemalettin Koltka  
Ahmed Morad Asaad  
Ahmet Aslan  
Ahmet Caglayan  
Ahmet Kokurcan  
Aladdin J. Mohammad  
Alberto Modenese  
Aleksa Jovanovic  
Alexander E. Berezin  
Alexandr V. Belousov  
Alexandra Senegaglia  
Ali A. Alshatwi  
Ali Alasmari  
Ali Aldhebaib  
Ali Alhilly  
Ali Alshabi

Ali Alyami  
Ali Ismail Ali Abdelreahim  
Ali Jawad\*  
Alian A. Alrasheedy  
Altug Tuncel  
AM Al-Hinnawi  
Amal Ismail  
Amari Alhozali  
Amjad Alharbi  
Amr Arafat  
Amro Hanora  
Amy Gladin  
Anan S. Jarab  
Andreas Jahnen  
Andreas Tiede  
Angham Al Mutair  
Anil Kumar Sah  
Anirudha Agnihotry  
Anna Baran  
Anna Horwood  
A. M. Badowska-Kozakiewicz  
Annang Giri Moelyo  
Anne Cusick  
Anshoo Malhotra  
Anusha Yanamadala  
Aqeel Alaqeel  
Areej Alkhalidy  
Arghya Das  
Arife Akay  
Arli Aditya Parikesit  
Armen Yuri Gasparyan  
Ashwin Subramaniam  
Asmaa Abdel Nasser  
Atousa Deljou  
Attia Bari  
Aveek Jayant  
Aws Al-Numan  
Ayman Al-hazmi  
Ayse Akbas

Badr Aljarallah  
Bahar Dernek  
Balaji Zacharia  
Bander Alanazi  
Bang-Gee Hsu

Banu Ordahan  
Bareng A.S. Nonyane  
Basile N. Landis  
Basman Al-Metwali  
Bedoor Alomran  
Bekir Kocazeybek  
Benoit Bedat  
Biswanath Basu

Carlos Sanchez-Garcia  
Carlton Dampier  
Cathy L. Lazarus  
Cemil Kayali  
Chao Li  
Charles Doarn  
Cheorl-Ho Kim  
Christopher J. Nolan  
Christos Kosmas  
Chuan Shao  
Cristina Gluhovschi  
Cynthia L. Arfken

D. Kafadar  
Dan Dupont Hougaard  
Daniel Reim  
Dara Al-Banna  
Dayel Alshahrani  
Deependra K. Rai  
Derya Karasu  
Desh Deepak  
D. Kostova-Lefterova  
Dhia Kadhem  
Dian Handayani  
Dina Alsohaibi  
Dingshen Lin  
Dongsheng Sun  
Dragos Ioan Tohanean

E. Zangiacomini Martinez  
Eiman M. AbdulRahman  
Eitaro Kodani  
Eman Abdelrazek  
Eman Abduljawad  
Eman Dyab  
Eman E. Elsharkawy

Editorial Message

Enas Abdelaziz  
Endale Tefera  
Erna Rochmawati

Fadime Kilinc  
Fahad Al Juraibah  
Fahad Almutairi  
F. Mohammadghasemi  
Fairoz Ali Al-Wrafy  
Faizan Zaffar Kashoo\*  
Farah Dayana Zahedi  
Fares Haddad  
Farid Alzhrani  
Farrukh Majeed  
Faruk Buba  
Fatimah Al Aldahan  
Fawaz Al-Kassim  
Feras Alkholaiwi  
Ferdinando Antonio  
Gulino  
Filiz Ozsoy  
Firas S. Azzeh  
Foad Abdallah  
Fouad Almomani  
Francesco Ria  
Frederic Triponez

Gaurav Goyal  
Gennaro Martines  
Ghada Elgohary  
Ghassan Alokby  
Giancarlo Micheletto  
Gina Joubert  
Giovanni Conti  
Girmay Fitiwi Lema  
Gokhan Ozkan  
Grigoris T. Gerotziapas  
Gulali Aktas  
Gulfem Ece  
Gulseren Akyuz  
Gunes Senol  
Gunnar Hillerdal

H. Mazimilian Mehdorn  
Hadi Almohsen  
Hakan Cokmez  
Hakan Turkon  
Hala Abdelkarem\*  
Hala Amer

Halah Mosli  
Halil Ozcan  
Halls Suleyman  
Hamed Adetunji  
Hani Mawardi Mawardi  
Hao Zhang  
Hassan AbdulJabbar  
Hassan Abugad  
Hassan Al-Trabolsi  
Hatice Simsek  
Hatim Al-Jifree  
Henk Schonewille  
Hesham A. AbdelHalim  
Hisakazu Nakajima  
Hongxun Wu  
Hui-shan Wang

I Reid  
Ibraheem Abosoudah  
Ilhan Ece  
Ilker M. Arer  
Imran Ahmad  
Inci Alacacioglu  
Isra Aljazeera  
Iyad Naeem Muhammad

Jacqueline Maria Dias  
Jawahir Abuhaimeed  
Jigeeshu Vasishtha Divatia  
Joan L. Robinson  
Jone Trovik  
Jong Woo Chung  
Joshua Barzilay  
Jyoshid R. Balan  
Jyrki Vuola

Kazuya Takehana  
Kenji Hayashida  
Kevin Hellman  
Khaled Hamed Salem  
Khaled Saad  
Khalid Al-Mugheed  
Khalid Alshahrani  
Khalid Banimelhem  
Khalil Abu Jamileh  
Kostas Persinakis

L. Faggioni\*  
Lamia Elgarhy

Lamya Alnaim  
Lasitha Samarakoon  
Latifa Yahya Al Ajeel  
Layth Al-Hajjar  
Leman Acun Delen  
Leo Massari  
Liang Zong  
Li-ming Yu  
Li-Ting Kao

Magdalena Baymakova  
Magdi Salih  
Maha Aleid  
Maha Alharthi  
Maha Elkholy  
Mahwish Faizan  
Maja Surbatovic  
Mamdouh Allahyani  
Mana Almuhaideb  
Manar Nabolsi  
Man-sang Wong  
Marccone Lima Sobreira  
Mario Lima  
Martin H. Steinberg  
Martino Introna  
Marwa Abdelhamed  
Maryam Al Badi  
Maryam Al-Zahrani  
Marzia Miglionico  
Mateusz Spalek  
May Bin-Jumah  
Mazen Almehmadi\*  
Md. Rabiul Islam  
Mehmet Ali Eren  
Mehmet Artac  
Mehmet Burak Eskin  
Mert Senturk  
Michael D. Crossland  
Michele Merli  
Milan Lepic  
Miltos Lazarides  
Mine Kiseli  
Mirjana Kostic  
Misra Abdulahi  
Moba Al Shahed  
Mohamed AlAgeel  
Mohamed I. Kamel  
Mohamed S. Abdel-Latif  
Mohammad A. Gaballah

Editorial Message

Mohammad Abdelghani  
Mohammad Abu Assab  
Mohammad Alam  
Mohammad Alfuhaily  
Mohammad Eid Mahfouz  
M. Waheed El-Anwar  
Mohammed AlAteeq  
Mohammed Alhendi  
Mohammed Alsaadi  
Mohammed Alsakkaf  
Mohammed Salih Mahfouz  
Mohd Yazid Bajuri  
Mohsen Alzahrani  
Mona F. Mahmoud  
Morten Dahl  
Mostafa Waly  
Muath Alammar  
Muhammad Kashif Munir  
Muhanna AlShaibani  
Munierah Al-Hussain  
Murat Baykara  
Murat Gunay  
Mushtak T. S. Al-Ouqaili  
Mustafa Arslan  
Mustafa Said Aydogan

**N.** Hancerliogullari  
Nadia Alhazmi  
Nagwa Alamin  
Naser Shari  
Nasser Shubayr  
Nawal Dayoub  
Nesrin Alharthy  
Nicola Magnavita  
Nicola Mumoli  
Nicola Troisi  
Noorizan Abd Aziz  
Nopporn Apiwattanakul  
Noura Alqahtani  
Nuha Alkhattabi  
Nuri Bayram

**Odd** Martin Vallersnes  
Ola A. Bakry  
Omar Al Zahrani  
Onur Fezvi Erer  
Osama A. Samargandi  
Osama B. Albasheer

Paolo Boffano  
Paolo Cavoretto  
Philip S. Barie  
Pinar Korkmaz  
Pinar Okyay  
Polina Popova  
Pradeep H. Navsaria

**Q.** E. Ali  
Q. Ji  
Qin Xiang Ng  
Qintai Yang  
Qun Wang

**R.** A. Gadelkareem  
Rabie Soliman  
Raghib Abusaris  
Ram Das  
Ram Samujh  
Ramazan Akcan  
Rami Abazid  
Raymon Siu Ming Wong  
Recep Akdur  
Rehab Werida  
Reinaldo Figueroa  
Riwa Kishimoto  
Roah Merdad  
Ronald Oude Elferink  
Rose Costa  
Rudyard dos Santos Oliveira

**Saad** AlKhowaiter  
Saad Alqahtani  
Sabah Jastaneiah  
Saddam Al Demour  
Sakina Zerizer  
Saleh Alanazi  
Salih Ozgocmen  
Salina Husain  
Samah Abohamr\*  
Sameh Ahmed  
Sameh Shehata  
Samera AlBasri\*  
Sami Abu-Halaweh  
Samy Kasem  
Satyabhuwan Singh Netam  
Sayed Abdulazeez  
Selim Afsar  
Selma Tosun

Sema Alacam  
Serbulent Yigit  
Seshadri Reddy Varikasuvu  
Seyda Efsun Ozgunay  
Shawn Thomas  
Sheela Mathew  
Sherif Abdelmonim  
Shi-Yang Guan  
Shoroq Altawalbeh  
Shu-Qin yu  
Sibtain Ahmed  
Siraj Wali  
Sirajudeen Shaik Alavudeen  
Siva Reddy Challa  
Sohaib Al-Khatib  
Sohaib Shujaat  
Sohail Ahmad  
Stefan Opperman  
Stefan Stortecky  
Stephanie Baggio  
Subhi Alghanem  
Suhael Ahmed  
Suheyla Abitagaoglu  
Sultan Alamri  
Sultan Alhowti  
Sultan Ayesh Saghir  
Sumayah Al Helali  
Susan Busch  
Svetlana Madjunkova

**Tahir** Hameed\*  
Taisuke Ito  
Talal Alfaadhel  
Tamer Abouelgreed  
Tatjana Pekmezovic  
Taymour Mostafa  
Turki Albacker  
Turki Al-Hussain

**Ulunay** Kanatli  
Umut Sabri Kasapoglu

**V.** Bedekovic  
Veli Avci  
Vikas Gupta

**Wafa** I. Elhag  
Waled Ahmed  
Waleed Abdelfattah

Editorial Message

Waleed Milaat  
Waqas Sami  
Wei Kang

**Xiang-jun Qiu**

**Yasemin Astandaa**  
Yasir Khayyat  
Yasser Hadi  
Yasser Samhan  
Yassin Abdelsamad  
Yoichi Nishimura

Yong Joo Kim  
Yoshikatsu Nomura  
Young Han Lee  
Youssef M. Mosaad  
Yusuf Aksu

**Zaid Zoumot**  
Zainab A. Al Jufairi  
Zakaria Al Habib  
Zubair Syed  
Zulqarnain Baloch

*\*Reviewers who reviewed 3 or more articles for the year 2022*