

*Editorial*

## **Roles and Requirements of a New Open-Access Online Journal**

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### **Editorial**

I am serving as the Editor-in-Chief of this new open-access on-line journal, *Advances in Clinical and Translational Research*, and would like to discuss the roles and the requirements of such journals.

When I graduated from medical school, on-line journals did not yet exist. Obtaining new information from major medical journals, then published as paper magazines, required gaining access to a large medical library. For most clinical practitioners and active researchers working in small or private facilities, the only available option to gain updated medical information was to subscribe to such paper journals, most of which were not free of charge. To keep one's knowledge up-to-date, regular long-term subscriptions were required. Even when limiting the subscribed magazines to those in one's field of expertise, there were still many journals available for review, which made the total cost of subscriptions quite expensive. If one lacked the funds to support subscribing to every journal available, then one had to necessarily limit their subscriptions—and thereby limit their access to knowledge. Paper journals were also heavy and took up substantial space in a bookshelf. In order to review the literature, one had to make their own literature database, obtaining hard copies of journals. If the required journals were not available at the local medical library, one had to travel to another large medical library at another university, which was often an expensive endeavour. Submissions themselves also had to be made via snail mail on printed paper, which was cumbersome and often expensive, depending on the length of a manuscript and the number of submissions required.

In the present era, most clinical practitioners and researchers around the world use and depend on on-line journals. Open-access on-line journals are the ideal medium for presenting new findings, and many traditional large medical publishers have launched new open-access on-line journals of their own. Downloaded literature can be saved to one's personal computer or mobile device, clearing precious space on physical bookshelves and allowing for a great many more papers to be accessed. Furthermore, a number of bibliography software programs are now available, helping researchers create their own database and bibliographies. Moreover, for those who prefer reading paper articles, the desired manuscript can be easily printed.

To obtain any sort of information, reliable and up-to-date sources are required. As the Editor-in-Chief, maintaining a high content quality is the top priority of this journal. For those considering submitting a manuscript to this journal, I advise you to first consider the significance of your manuscript in the global medical community. Read and obey the manuscript preparation guidelines, which are the principal rules of scientific communities. Carefully review your manuscript before the submissions, as many manuscripts contain basic English errors. To ensure that your findings are understood by both readers and reviewers, your report should include sufficient relevant information. Reviewers should be critical but thoughtful in their comments in order to improve the quality of the

journal—and after authors receive reviewers' comments, they should endeavour to provide sufficient feedback and improvements to the revised manuscript in order to ensure its acceptance.

I understand that some may consider the article processing fees of this journal moderate. Indeed, some on-line journals have relatively low fees or offer free publication. However, the editorial activity of some of these journals may be sacrificed in order to operate with such a tight budget. Regular journal publication is a contracted business, and reviews and publication should be performed in a timely fashion. Moderate article processing fees are therefore required to maintain an effective editorial process. While we must judiciously review submitted manuscripts in order to ensure the high quality of our scientific journal, the rejection of a submitted manuscript results in no income for the publisher and no exposure for the author, a lose-lose situation. All reviewers and editors, including myself, receive no payment for their volunteer-basis activities. I sincerely hope that this journal can assist researchers in their medical practice and scientific endeavours.