

Acta Medica Iranica, Back to Its Prestigious Place: The Medline

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"The More Original A Discovery, the More Obvious It Seems Afterwards"

Arthur Koestler

At last, Acta Medica Iranica got (AMI) indexed in Medline a status it rightly deserves for its superb and original manuscripts and their overall diversity. Apart from the highly valued and priced manuscripts that it receives for publication, the journal proudly claims to have an editorial board comprising of figures of international repute and fame. It is to be emphasized that it is not the first time that it is being indexed as it had been on the list of indexed journals of Index Medicus in the second half of the last century for a period of almost 20 years.

Its first issue dates back to 1956 when the journal used to be published quarterly and besides having an English text of all the manuscripts displayed their abstracts in French also to give a coverage to its Francophone readers and subscribers. Its indexing in Index Medicus went uninterrupted till 1978 following which it was withdrawn from Index Medicus for delays and irregularities in publication. Its absence from Index Medicus had always been a matter of concern and disenchantment both for its readers in general and for those at the helm of its administrative affairs in particular.

Eversince the present editorial board shouldered its responsibilities in the year 2000, there had been a growing enthusiasm and persistent struggle to get it re-indexed in Medline. However the task was monumental and required the services of all and sundry. The criteria for enlisting a journal in Medline are stern and overcoming the hurdles a painstaking task because the referees are interested in an impeccable journal from all angles meeting all their criteria for selection.

As AMI publishes manuscripts from almost all branches of medicine and is not a single specialty journal, indexing it and journals of its kind had always been comparatively difficult.

The editorial board on their part brought about a complete metamorphosis in its physical outlook and qualitative structure with a generalized consensus to publish only manuscripts of proven quality both in terms of scientific writing and in terms of linguistic style. To achieve these coveted goals a professional scrutiny of all the submitted manuscripts by experts and a rapid review process was needed. This could be achieved only after

having looked into our own failings and short comings as an editorial board which were corrected after repeated skull sessions. One of our desired goals was to accept manuscripts for publication that had originality and a streak of innovation in them in order to comply with the international standards and requirements. Naturally we had no choice but to reject a large number of really valuable manuscripts from potential contenders for publishing their works in AMI. We extend our apologies to those whose submissions had been rejected not because that they were less valuable but because of the limited space available for each issue of the journal.

Another item that needed a speedy look was to ascertain and guarantee timely publication of the journal because delays in publication carry a negative impression among the readers and in the eyes of those awarding credits for indexing the journal.

Thus a commitment was made to bring out issues of the journal in rapid succession and exactly on time. Although a daunting task, nevertheless it could be accomplished through the perseverance and hard toil of all concerned. The editorial board also needed some overhauling to give it a look of heterogeneity and this could only be achieved with the inclusion of new members from different parts of the world after assessing their credentials and research background. In addition, several sessions of open discussions were held to hammer out a pragmatic solution for Acta's inclusion in Index Medicus. To achieve our intended goal, we as a team of the editorial board trudged cautiously to bring a laudable and acceptable change in both the text and outfit of Acta, and now as we look in retrospect at the laborious task that we jointly conducted as a team, we can say that it was a formidable task which yielded the best results.

We all waged a ten year campaign of improvement and eventually got the dividends in terms of returning back Acta to its prestigious place of Index Medicus. It was a collective effort in which everyone contributed and we salute everyone and extol the sincere services of all concerned.

We would like to congratulate all our readers and sympathizers because it was they and their literary scientific contributions which paved the way for AMI to

be indexed in Medline. In conclusion, we would say that tomorrow is never guaranteed. For a bright tomorrow, we appeal to all our readers world wide to provide us with original articles of high validity for publication so

that we can jointly climb the stairs of progress with an astronomical pace so as to reach our final targeted limit-the sky. Keep up the tempo and help us in this endeavor of excellence.

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