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Author/s:

Szer, J

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The Journal in 2018

Editorial

Jeff Szer
@marrow
Editor-in-Chief
Internal Medicine Journal

Words: 1049
Email: jeff.szer@mh.org.au

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It is my annual pleasure to review the year just gone for *Internal Medicine Journal*. This was another year where I have been proud to associate myself with our publication because of the high quality work submitted, reviewed by enthusiastic volunteer peers and curated by a committed group of editors prior to publishing. In 2018 we published 12 full issues of about 1500 pages plus six supplements (four of meeting abstracts and two special issues devoted to specific patient management issues). I believe that we managed to maintain our position as the premier destination for publication of scientific matters relevant to physicians in Australia and New Zealand. I have thanked the Editorial Board and management team annually and I take this opportunity to repeat these thanks. Each editor as well as the editorial office team of Virginia Savickis and Aparna Avasarala work tirelessly to provide you with this journal.

I hope you have noticed, in the second half of the year just gone, a marked improvement in the on-line presence and resources of the journal. Among these, you should have noticed the increased twitter presence we have developed with notices posted by Aparna (@The_IMJ). With the publication of each issue, a number of articles are highlighted in our twitter feed in which featured articles are freely available to all who follow the feed for a limited time. The twitter feed is also seen on the journal homepage in the right column. In the first quarter of 2018, there were over 30,000 impressions of posts from the @The_IMJ account increasing to over 160,000 in the third quarter.

I am satisfied that the website redesign has produced a clean and contemporary feel which has also improved access to content in other ways. There is now better visibility and easier navigation for articles as there are “Most recent”, “Most cited” and “Latest issue” tabs which remove the need to browse in a less efficient way. I remind readers that the Editor’s Choice article, clearly highlighted in each issue, remains freely available even to non-subscribers. The search function itself has been

improved and is now highly comprehensive. We all need as much time freed up as possible and this, we hope, is a small contribution to that.

2018 saw the simultaneous resignation in March 2018 of our Endocrine editors, Associate Professor Morton Burt from Adelaide (editor since 2009) and Professor Anthony Russell from Brisbane (editor since Jan 2014). In keeping with the strategy of twin appointments for this subspecialty, they were replaced by Professor Mark Cooper (Adrenal Steroid Lab, ANZAC Research Institute, Sydney) and Dr Helen Barrett (Mater Hospital Brisbane, Qld). Associate Professor Michael O'Leary, Sydney (editor since 2008) advised in March of his resignation as Intensive Care Editor. He was replaced in July 2018 by Dr John Gowardman (Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brisbane) who is a fellow of both the College of Intensive Care Medicine and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Each editor's expertise and influence is acknowledged. We thank Morton Burt and Anthony Russell for dealing with the large endocrinology workload and Michael O'Leary for promoting intensive care as an integral part of the internal medicine community.

Finally, Professor Matthew Naughton from Melbourne (editor in Respiratory Medicine since 2000), resigned at the end of 2018, showing particular tenacity after almost two decades of dedication to the Journal, through multiple changes in Journal processes. We are currently going through the process of identifying a replacement editor. Many have asked over the years of what that process might be for appointing new editors. In brief, the President of the relevant specialty society is asked to nominate an appropriately qualified individual. This recommendation is usually accepted. It is a formal process that has resulted in a continuously highly professional editorial board over many decades.

The 2017 2 year ISI Impact Factor for IMJ was 1.785 which is calculated from citations of published articles over the two previous calendar years. This is a

decrease from 1.902 in 2016. However, a look at the last 5 years of data shows a pleasing increase in total citations and certainly marked increase in views and downloads of important articles. The 5 year impact factor was 1.868. The top cited paper in this period was the paper by Hill published in the May issue on the relationship between exercise and chronic lung disease.¹

Pomegranate is the Royal Australasian College of Physicians podcasting platform. There was one podcast related directly to *Internal Medicine Journal* material in 2018, namely the paper on acute coronary syndrome by Brieger et al, published in the May issue². As well, reference was made to the paper by O'Donnabhain and Friedman on what makes a good doctor and published in the July issue.³

I would like to remind authors that providing a list of acronyms for original articles, reviews and brief communications is clearly defined in the author guidelines but most often is neglected. We often receive readers' comments on the benefits of defining acronyms within the published article as a list and ask authors to provide them as they assist the visibility and readability of specialised terms to a wide readership.

We remind all readers that in 2017 our publisher has integrated this journal with Publons and so can give reviewers official recognition for their contributions. As well, reviewers can also freely opt into Publons to track and verify their reviews.

I usually thank our reviewers and this year will be no exception. I recognise the global trend to increase demands on reviewers and a reducing number of willing ones due to what has been termed "reviewer fatigue" recently described in the literature.⁴. So in the face of this, thank you to our dedicated reviewers, named in the following pages.

Once again, may I remind you to subscribe to the electronic table of contents and automatically include alerts to newly published papers? You can sign up at Wiley Online Library at [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1445-5994](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1445-5994) and

click on the “Get New Contents” alert tab in the upper left corner or for Fellows of the RACP, via the publications link at <http://www.racp.edu.au>. I would recommend you explore this if you have not done so already.

I am certain that the *Internal Medicine Journal* will have another exciting year of important reading for all of us so I again encourage you to continue to submit your better papers to us.

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