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Title:

The Journal in 2017

Date:

2018-01-01

Citation:

Szer, J. (2018). The Journal in 2017. Internal Medicine Journal, 48 (1), pp.7-8. <https://doi.org/10.1111/imj.13675>.

Persistent Link:

<https://hdl.handle.net/11343/283498>

The Journal in 2017

Editorial

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Author Manuscript

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Internal Medicine Journal had a bumper year in 2017 with a full volume plus six supplements published and we managed to maintain and build on our position as the premier vehicle for publication of scientific matters relevant to physicians in New Zealand and its neighbour to the west. I have thanked the Editorial Board and management team annually for the past 13 consecutive years and I never get tired of it. They all work beyond the limits of their briefs throughout the year to provide you with the product you are holding now, one of which we are extremely proud and one that is on a steady upward trajectory regarding quality and reach.

Some of you will be aware that the Editorial Board met in person at the RACP in Sydney this year in September and discussed the current status of the Journal and its future. This was a productive day and you should start to see some outputs from that meeting in the coming issues. I had hoped to have had a summary paper of highlights of the year in many of the disciplines covered in the Journal by this issue but the deadline I set was impossibly short so hopefully you will see it within the next couple of months. I certainly plan to make this an annual “event” (provided it is well received). I am hopeful that such an annual report may help to expand the interests and knowledge of an increasingly subspecialised readership into important advances in fields other than its own. When the 2018 version of this does appear, I welcome all comments (even via twitter: remember, I’m @marrow).

The Editorial Board had several changes over the past year starting with the resignation of the Editor for Infectious Diseases Professor David Gordon (editor since April 2014). We thank David for his patience and application to the editor’s role, especially with the obvious rise in the number of submissions to this specialty. In May 2017 the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases unanimously nominated Dr Ian Woolley (Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne) for the position of Infectious Diseases editor. Ian has a particular interest in HIV. Associate Professor Fred Khafagi resigned as Nuclear Medicine Editor in September 2017, a role he has held and conducted brilliantly since May 1995. I would like to acknowledge his dedication and loyalty.

Associate Professor Sze Ting Lee (Monash Medical Centre Melbourne) was appointed as the new Nuclear Medicine Editor on 12 October 2017. Prof. Lee has advised of international developments in this area of medicine with some coverage anticipated for the IMJ readership in an impending editorial. In recognition of the increasing workloads in an increasing number of specialties, the decision was made to add an additional editor to the Nephrology portfolio. This, as you will know, has already happened in other disciplines such as Haematology, Cardiology and Endocrinology with increased efficiency in these disciplines. We welcome Prof Karin.Jandeleit-Dahm from Monash University who has been appointed to this role after nomination from the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology.

Our citation index for 2016 was 1.902, showing a significant rise over the year from 1.526. (The five-year impact factor was 1.788.) These figures represent the proportion of citations to published papers over the previous two (or five) years. Our ranking in the “medicine, general and internal” category was 52/154 representing an improvement of 10 places with one additional journal in the mix.

Manuscripts continue to come from all over the world and China remains a growing source of submissions. I am pleased that our panel of honorary biostatistical advisors have been able to provide very useful assistance to editors when requested. You may remember that last year, I relayed the information that Wiley had partnered with the company called Altmetric to track the ways in which articles are shared, used, and discussed including in social media, blog posts, newspapers and magazines. You can see these scores with each published article on Wiley Online Library and a specific example of its value later in this editorial.

The College podcast programme (Pomegranate) continued to highlight interesting matters related to papers published in the Journal. In 2017 the podcast released on 2 August 2017 (Episode 27) discussed the paper on severe asthma by Professor Peter Gibson and Professor Vanessa McDonald, both from the Hunter Medical Research

Institute. The guests for this episode published a Clinical Perspectives review in the June 2017 issue of the Journal.¹ They described emerging diagnostic tools and therapies such as monoclonal antibodies that are targeted to specific disease phenotypes. Another podcast released on 26 September (Episode 29) discussed the paper by Professor Richard Day et al (St Vincent's UNSW) on drug interactions published in the May 2017 issue of the Journal² and included another guest, Professor Sarah Hilmer from Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney for a counterpoint. You can find the podcasts through the RACP site (<https://www.racp.edu.au/pomegranate/>), but one can also subscribe to the Pomegranate series via iTunes and other podcast aggregators. There is an added benefit for Fellows of listening to these podcasts as CPD credits can be claimed for MyCPD for this activity (as one can for reading the Journal and publishing in it!).

A new solicited series in Addiction Medicine began in 2017 entitled, "Addiction medicine: clinical and ethical perspectives series" edited by Associate Professor Yvonne Bonomo. About 10 papers are planned; four were published in 2017, the first one in the February issue.³

The *Internal Medicine Journal* twitter account (@The_IMJ) is active and you can link to each issue and highlighted paper directly from there. Follow us, you won't regret it.

There was a considerable amount of media reporting relating to the paper by Ruane et al entitled "Triggering of acute myocardial infarction by respiratory infection" published in the May 2017 issue of the IMJ⁴. Stories reached a global audience and coverage is still ongoing with the article achieving a massive Altmetric score of 594 (a score of 632 as I write). By late May 2017, the article had been mentioned in over 84 news stories from 74 different news outlets globally. The Altmetric score is a calculation based on the quality and quantity of attention a covered article receives in a variety of social media platforms.

Last year, I indicated that Wiley was developing a smart device application (“app”) which will allow you to access the Journal so much more conveniently. I continue to wait for this as the release has been unfortunately held up for a variety of reasons. Hopefully it will be even better when we do see it, possibly soon.

I continue to be in awe of the work of Virginia Savickis, the Editorial Manager and Aparna Avasarala the editorial assistant in getting this Journal out on time and impressively free of error. Aparna has been essential in getting the twitter account up and running and is doing a great job with it.

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.

In closing, I thank, once again, our dedicated team of manuscript reviewers for the excellent and essential work they do for us and the authors whose submissions they review and always improve. Publons (www.publons.com) is an initiative which is now running smoothly and providing some credit for the work reviewers do for this and other publications.

I invite you to read the names of our 2017 reviewers listed after this article and if possible, thank them personally for the service they selflessly provide for the essential and unpaid work offered to us. I thank all of them right here.

I look forward to another exciting year of great reading for the Journal and am happy to have you along for the ride.

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