
FORUM

IJT now indexed in PubMed, what is next?

We are very excited to know that *Indian Journal of Tuberculosis (IJT)* has been selected by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to be indexed in Medline/Index Medicus, the world's most important biomedical bibliographical database. Nearly 15-20% of medical journals are selected at each session for inclusion in Medline. Index Medicus/MEDLINE/PubMed published by U. S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) is free, vital and universally used biomedical literature retrieval system in the world. NLM uses an advisory committee, the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee, composed of authorities knowledgeable in the field of biomedicine, such as physicians, researchers, educators, editors, health science librarians, and historians, to review and recommend the journal titles NLM should index.

The editorial board of the *IJT* is proud to be among the pioneers of successful and sustainable historic journal. All the authors, peer-reviewers and readers, who continue to give useful feedback also, have contributed to this success.

Although *IJT* was available free on line, it is now accessible on *PubMed*. With the ease of accessibility on the Internet, not only the *IJT* is being recognized, the success and distress of RNTCP are being recognized by the researcher at international level by uniform literature retrieval system of Medline. Many operational research projects are going on in India. Scientific research results achieved through various scientific funds and produced in various institutions should be easy to access by the whole scientific community. Till date most of the

researches especially from India in the field of tuberculosis have been preferred by the authors to be published in international journals, far from free accessibility of an Indian. Time has come, our works to be recognized by us at par with international researchers. I hope it is the time to reverse the trend.

IJT has become successful in its application; the next target is official 'Impact Factor' (IF), which usually becomes available after three years. The impact factor, which is based on the number of citations of a paper in other journals, is often used in allocation of resources. The 'Impact Factor' is calculated each year by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) now known as Thomson Scientific (www.scientific.thomson.com) available at for those journals which it indexes are published in the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*. The 'Impact Factor' measures how frequently an average article from a journal is cited in a particular year.

Still, *IJT*'s long-term sustainability will depend on its ability to continually increase its quality. A new publication must prove that it has something to offer. It is obvious that in each specialty the best journals are those in which it is most difficult to have an article accepted, and these are the journals that have a high Impact Factor. The use of impact factor as a measure of quality is widespread because it fits well with the opinion we have in each field of the best journals. The high quality of the journal can not be achieved without the invaluable help of the reviewers within and outside the Editorial Board with high-quality research and manuscript.

Prasanta Raghav Mohapatra
Chandigarh