

SMJ IN THE EYES OF MEDICAL EXPERTS

The feeling I have towards SMJ is a mixture of admiration and respect. I observed the growth and progress of the journal over the years. Besides its formal content, several of my communications with the editorial board included comments on the general performance of SMJ and the impact of the recent reforms implemented in the technical appearance and the content of the articles of the journal. This is a simple indication for the feeling of belonging I feel towards SMJ and a way to support and thank the people behind it.

Ghazi Omar Tadmouri
Turkey

I express my thanks to Saudi Medical Journal as it provides us in the Kingdom with a window to reach the scientific world outside. In fact, I have received inquiries and paper requests from various parts of the world ranging from Japan to Argentina after my abstracts were seen on Medline. Keep up the good work.

Suhad M. Bahijri
Jeddah, KSA

I had a chance to see the most recent issue of Saudi Medical Journal and I think it is, as seen over the years, at par with any international journal.

Ausaf Ahsan
India

It gives me great pleasure and honor to continue my support to Saudi Medical Journal and to see it as one of the best medical journals in the world.

Ahmed Ghanem
Najran, KSA

I congratulate the editorial team of Saudi Medical Journal for the new shape that SMJ is taking, which I believe is a successful start for the new millennium.

Mohamed A. Daw
Libya

Saudi Medical Journal

5 Golden Years

Contents

❖ <i>Processing</i>	5
❖ <i>Editing</i>	15
❖ <i>Marketing</i>	25
<i>English</i>	26
<i>Arabic</i>	28
❖ <i>Editors' Conclusive Report</i>	31
<i>English</i>	32
<i>Arabic</i>	35
❖ <i>Quality Control Report</i>	39
❖ <i>Previous Staff</i>	45
❖ <i>Staff 2003</i>	48

SAUDI MEDICAL JOURNAL

www.smj.org.sa

Patron: HRH Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz
Editorial Director: Ketab E. Al-Otaibi

Editors

Saleh M. Al-Deeb
Basim A. Yaqub

Arabic Editor

Ghada Al Ahmed

Editorial Office

Susan E. Douglas, *Assistant Editor*
Joyce E. Elicerio, *Editorial Manager*
Jeannette P. Von Possel, *Editorial Assistant*
Claire L. Rivers, *Desktop Publisher*
Ligaya M. Legaspi, *Desktop Publisher*
Leila T. Medrano, *Graphic Designer*
Ismail M. Al-Smadi, *Statistician*

Editorial Office

Saudi Medical Journal
Armed Forces Hospital
PO Box 7897
Riyadh 11159
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
www.smj.org.sa

Tel. (00 966 1) 477 7714 Ext. 6570
Fax. (00 966 1) 476 1810 or 477 7194
Email: info@smj.org.sa

Marketing & Advertising

Mrs. Ghada Al-Ahmed
Saudi Medical Journal
Armed Forces Hospital
PO Box 7897
Riyadh 11159
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
www.smj.org.sa

Tel. (00 966 1) 477 7714 Ext. 6577
Fax. (00 966 1) 476 1810 or 477 7194
Email: gahmed@smj.org.sa

Saudi Medical Journal is copyright under the Berne Convention and the International Copyright Convention. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior permission of the Editor. Statements expressed in the *Saudi Medical Journal* reflect the views and opinions of the authors and not the policies of the journal. The *Saudi Medical Journal* does not accept responsibility for statements made by contributors or advertisers. Advertisements, which are published in the Journal, are not endorsed by *Saudi Medical Journal*

Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical Journals and Saudi Medical Journal Instruction to Authors can be downloaded in PDF format free of charge from the Saudi Medical Journal web site www.smj.org.sa. If you would like to receive these documents by e-mail, please send your request to info@smj.org.sa

CITED IN INDEX MEDICUS, MEDLINE AND PUBMED (Saudi Med J), EXCERPTA MEDICA AND CURRENT CONTENTS

ASTM CODE N: SAMJDI 19 (1) 684-823
ISSN 0379-5284

Advisory and Editorial Board

Advisory Board

Mohammed Abomelha
Armed Forces Hospital

Yagob Al-Mazrou
Ministry of Health

Ahmed Kurdi
Armed Forces Hospital

Hussein Al-Freihi
Saudi Council for Health Specialities

Khalaf Al-Moutaery
Armed Forces Hospital

Nayef Al-Rodhan
King Faisal Specialist Hospital & RC

Editorial Board

Abdullah Abanmi
*Armed Forces Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Assia Al-Rawaf
*Armed Forces Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Muhammad Majeed-Saidan
*Armed Forces Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Hisham Akbar
*King Abdul-Aziz University Hospital
Jeddah, KSA*

Ammar C. Al-Rikabi
*Hamad Medical Corporation
Qatar*

Ratib Mesleh
*Armed Forces Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

**Rabie Abdel-Halim
(History of Medicine)**
*King Saud University
Riyadh, KSA*

Ali Al-Shehri
*King Fahad National Guard Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Adnan Mofti
*Security Forces Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Saeed Al-Ghamdi
*King Khalid University
Abha, KSA*

Shouki Bazarbashi
*King Faisal Specialist Hospital & RC
Riyadh, KSA*

**Ashry Gad Mohammed
(Statistician)**
*King Saud University
Riyadh, KSA*

Maher Al-Hadidi
*University of Jordan
Jordan*

Youssef Comair
*American University Beirut
Lebanon*

P.M.C. Nair
*Sultan Qaboos University Hospital
Muscat, Oman*

Hindi Al-Hindi
*Armed Forces Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Ahmed Elzubier
*King Fahad University
Al-Khobar, KSA*

Sadek R. Pharaon
*Zabrawi Hospital
Syria*

Abdullah Al-Mobeireek
*King Khalid University Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Mohammed Fouda
*King Khalid University Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Khalid Qattan
*King Khalid University Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Abdullah Al-Rabeeah
*King Fahad National Guard Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Issam Hamadah
*King Faisal Specialist Hospital & RC
Riyadh, KSA*

Assem Rostom
*The Royal Marsden
United Kingdom*

Abdulrahman Al-Rajhi
*King Faisal Specialist Hospital & RC
Riyadh, KSA*

Ali Hajeer
*King Fahad National Guard Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Mona Shahed
*Armed Forces Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Khalid Kalantan
*King Khalid University Hospital
Riyadh, KSA*

Ghazi Omar Tadmouri
*Faith University
Turkey*

PROCESSING PROCESSING

Prepared by:

JOYCE ELICERIO – *Editorial Manager*

JEANNETE VON POSSEL – *Editorial Assistant*

PROCESSING

The Year 2002 was another significant year for Saudi Medical Journal. It was another year of success and milestone developments for the pioneer medical journal of the Middle East. In the Manuscript Processing Department, it was again a year of attaining goals, maintaining quality & professional processing of manuscripts and development of state-of-the-art manuscript tracking system to meet the demands of the continuous growing number of manuscripts submitted to Saudi Medical Journal.

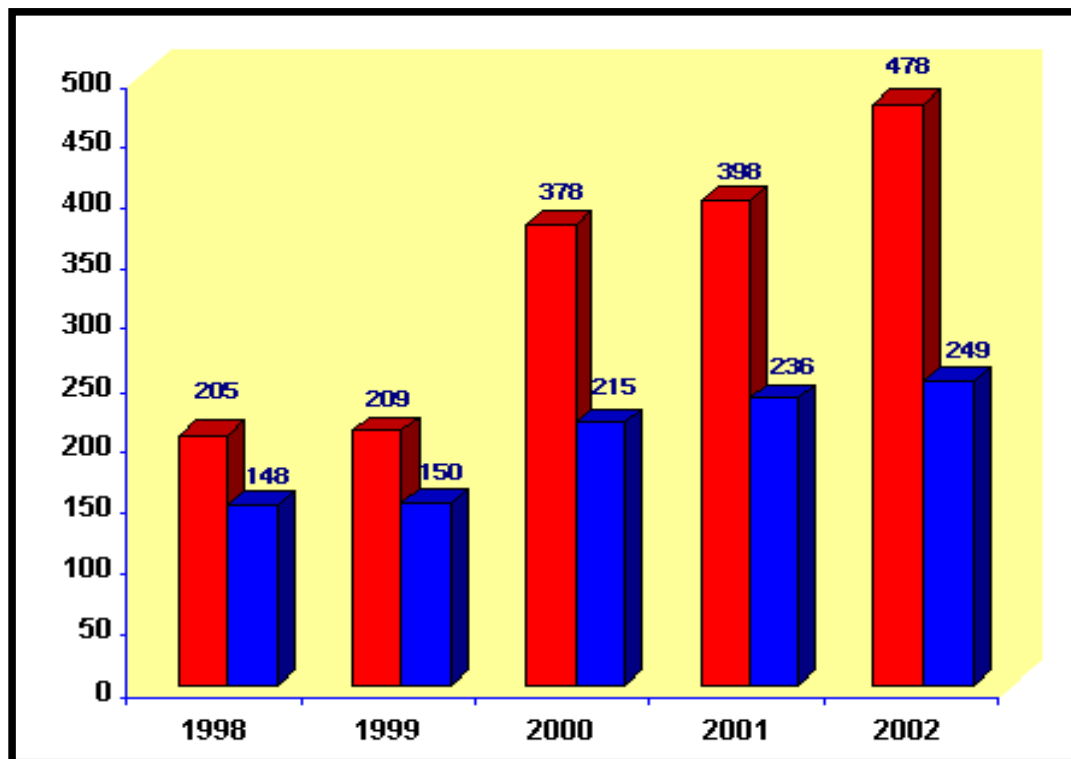
A 5-YEAR OVERVIEW

JOURNAL GROWTH. Since Saudi Medical Journal published its first issue in 1979, it has been published bimonthly until in the Year 1999 that the Journal with its increasing number of manuscripts decided to publish monthly. It was a worthwhile decision and proved to be the only way to meet the growing number of authors who wish to publish in Saudi Medical Journal. From the Year 1998 to 1999, there was a 2% increased in the number of manuscripts received while a 45% increased was noted in 2000. A 5% and 3% increased has also been recorded in 2001 and 2002 respectively. The Indexing of the Journal in the year 2000 has also contributed to the increasing number of manuscripts submitted to Saudi Medical Journal and because of this, there was a radical 50% increased of manuscripts received in 2002 as compared to the year 1999 where the Journal first published monthly. This year we have received a total of 478 manuscripts of which, 249 has been accepted. In the last five years, we have doubled the number of received and accepted papers from 1998 to 2000 by more than 100% as shown in *Table 1 & Figure 1*.

Table 1: Manuscript Status (1998 - 2002)

Status	1998	1999	2000 (%)	2001 (%)	2002 (%)
Received	205	209 (2%)	378 (45%)	398 (5%)	478 (20%)
Accepted	148	150 (1.3%)	215 (30%)	236 (9%)	249 (5%)

Note: Figures exclude Brief Communications, Correspondence & Clinical Notes



Received

Accepted

Figure 1: Manuscript Status (1998 to 2002)

REVIEWERS. As we strive to maintain an outstanding number of excellent reviewers, we usually evaluate them from time to time. As a result of this extensive evaluation, we are proud to say that we are able to maintain a group of topnotch reviewers who are well-respected experts in their respective fields. We acknowledge the excellent reviewers who participated in reviewing manuscripts for Saudi Medical Journal for the Year 2002 which consist of 70-75% of our reviewers. We also commend the 32 outstanding reviewers who reviewed 3 or more articles in 2002.

MANUSCRIPT TURNOVER TIME OF SUBMISSION, ACCEPTANCE & PUBLICATION. There was a 55% difference for the total turnover time for a manuscript from the submission date to acceptance date in the years 1999 and 2000. And in 2001 and 2002, the turnover time remained at 3.3. While we recorded a difference of 42% for the turnover time from acceptance date to publication date in 1999 and 2000, an increased of 36% from 2001 to 2002 has been noted (*Table 2 & Figure 2*). One major factor for this is the increasing number of high impact factor articles submitted for publication to Saudi Medical Journal. As we have indicated in our 2001 annual report, the Journal is considering a twice a month publication to accommodate the growing number of accepted manuscripts and lessen the turnover time of publication for accepted papers to our aim of 6 months (*Table 3 & Figure 3*). However, this decision is still under consideration.

Table 2: Turnover Time of Submission to Acceptance (1998 - 2002)

Status	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Received to Acceptance	5.1	4.5	2.9	3.3	3.3
Difference	55%		0%		

Table 3: Turnover Time of Acceptance to Publication (1998 - 2002)

Status	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Acceptance to Publication	10.1	9.1	6.4	4.7	7.4
Difference	42%		36%		

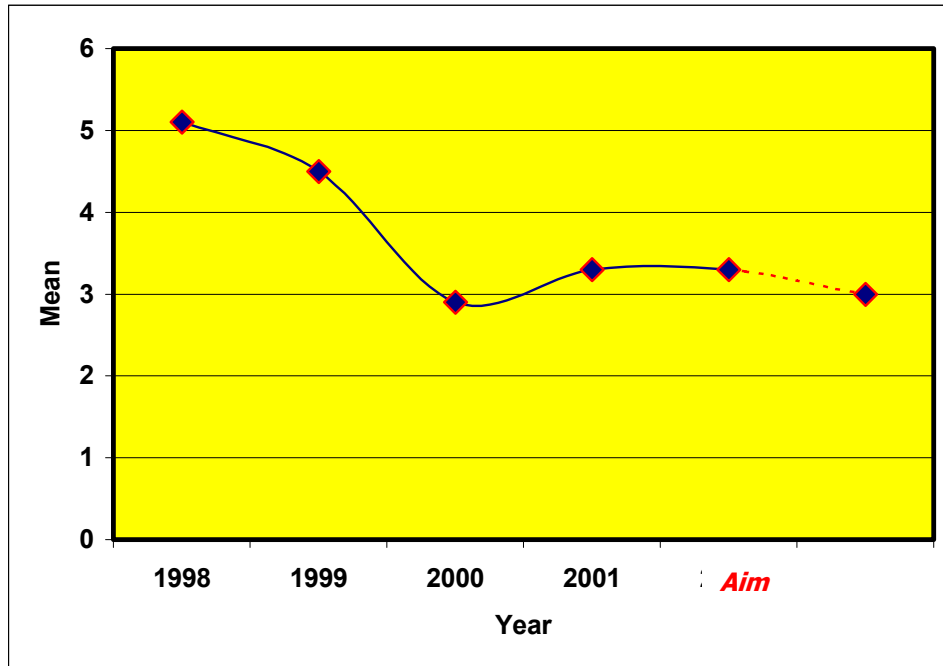


Figure 2: Received – Acceptance: A 5-Year Overview

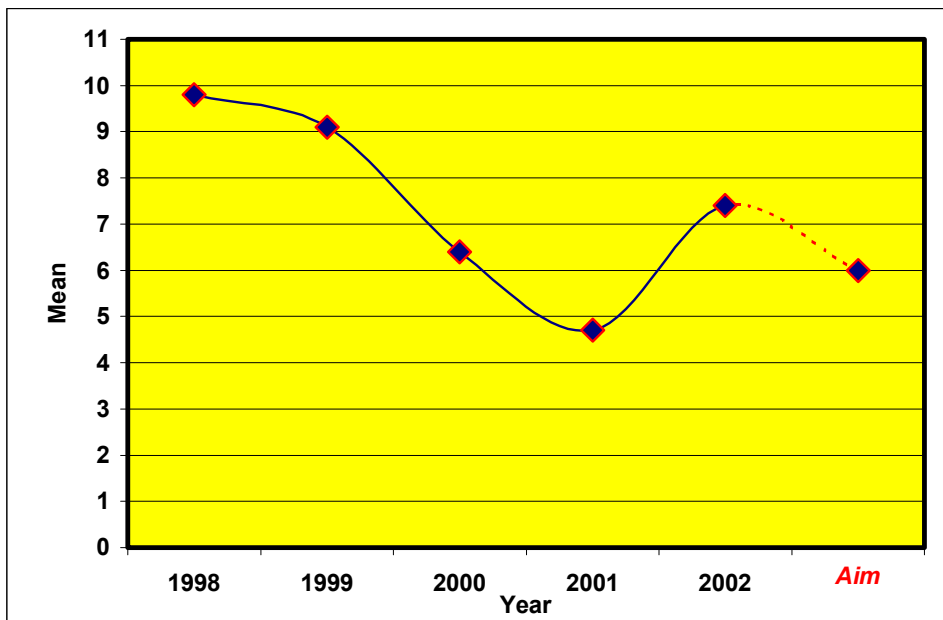


Figure 3: Acceptance- Publication: A 5-Year Overview

OBJECTIVES FOR 2003

LESSEN PROCESSING TIME FRAME. We aim to lessen the processing time frame from Received to Publication date to a maximum of 6 months. We believe that one of the many qualities of a reputable journal is the ability to adhere to timeliness & punctuality. Despite of the increasing number of high impact factor articles submitted to Saudi Medical Journal, we shall strive to lessen the processing time frame to a maximum of 6 months to ensure timely publication of significant topics.

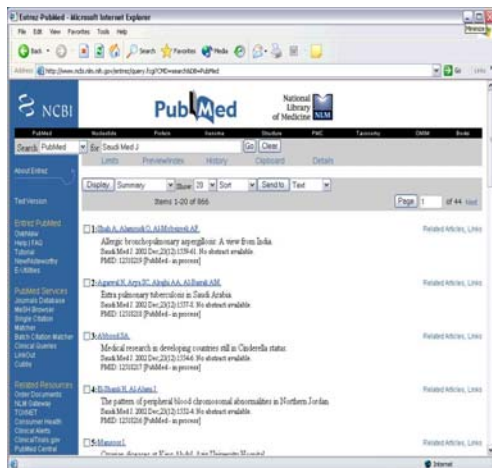
INCREASE REJECTION RATES. We also aim to increase the rejection rates of manuscripts for publication in order to publish more “high impact” articles for Saudi Medical Journal. As we always consider the interests of our readers, we feel we should maintain the high standard feature of the Journal, which is publishing outstanding articles.

EDUCATE. As the Journal continues to receive more and more articles for publication, we notice that there is a need to educate our future authors who wish to submit their articles for possible publication to Saudi Medical Journal. With this, it is our aim to inform future authors of the guidelines on how to write an article. We always stress the need for compliance with the Uniform Requirements for Biomedical Journals which we already made available through our website, www.smj.org.sa. Authors can download or print the Uniform Requirements via our website not to mention the availability of our Instructions to Authors & Suggestions to Authors Online.

DEFINE REQUIREMENTS. All manuscripts submitted for possible publication is not immediately processed unless it complies with all the necessary requirements. We now require a completed Author’s Declaration Form indicating the originality of the manuscript submitted so as to avoid duplication of articles and conflicts of interest that may arise. Unless an author provides a valid contact number: fax, telephone & email to speed up the communication process, a manuscript shall not be processed. With the availability of Saudi Medical Journal Online, authors can download blank Copyright Forms, Checklists and other vital information for manuscript submission through our website.

VALUABLE INVESTMENTS

Saudi Medical Journal has been striving to stand on its own feet in as far as finances is concerned. This is made possible with the help of its growing number of advertisers over the years. We started building good business relationships with a few advertisers and much to our surprise; we have maintained quite a number of valued regular advertisers, which stayed with the journal until the present time. Because of this, Saudi Medical Journal has invested to worthwhile undertakings that may contribute to the journal's prestige. Among these undertakings are *Indexing with NLM, Saudi Medical Journal Website, Saudi Medbase 1st & 2nd Edition* & a state-of-the-art *Database Tracking System*.



NLM, PUBMED, INDEX MEDICUS

One of the many valuable investments that the Journal has taken was the Indexing of the Journal with NLM, Pubmed & Index Medicus in January 2000. It has been a worthwhile undertaking as we see our journal added to the internationally acclaimed group of medical journals. It has been a challenging task for every member of the Editorial Office but more so very rewarding.



SAUDI MED J ONLINE

During this age of Information Technology, Saudi Medical Journal continues to conform to the present trend. Since the development of our website www.smj.org.sa, more and more authors, reviewers, subscribers prefer communicating electronically.

FEATURES. Saudi Medical Journal Online features access to Current Issue, Instructions to Authors, Information & Online Advertising. Online Subscription Management, which includes, Renewal, Change of Address & Request of previous copy is also available. All subscribers have access to full text articles in HTML and PDF format. Abstracts and Editorials are available to all online guests, FREE OF CHARGE.

Aside from these features, online visitors may view the history of Saudi Medical Journal, which is available in English and Arabic. It also gives information on the Journal's Editorial Board Members & Editorial Staff for easy contact in case of any inquiries.

DOWNLOADS. Authors can download Checklists for Manuscript Submission & Assignment of Copyright Form. Acrobat Reader is also downloadable from our very own site, FREE OF CHARGE.

ONLINE ORDERS. Aside from Online ordering of previous copies of the Journal, Saudi Medbase CD Rom can also be ordered via our website.

LINKS. Links to PUBMED and Neurosciences Journal Website is also an added feature of the website.

NEW FEATURES. We recently added access to Saudi Medical Journal's Future Contents & Future Highlights, which are definitely subject to changes without prior notice to the concerned author(s). The Uniform Requirements for Biomedical Journals have also been added for information.

STATISTICS. Ever since the development of Saudi Med J website in the year 2000, we continue to think ways on how we can maximize the use of the website and reach more authors, reviewers and subscribers by just a click of the mouse! Our statistics showed that between June and December 2002, the average number of hits per day is roughly 10,000 hits. Not to mention the successful hits for the entire site, which is averaging to almost 260,000 a month. The highest hits were from Saudi Arabia, followed by North America (*Figure 4*).

Most Active Countries Visiting SMJ Website (*July-September 2002*)

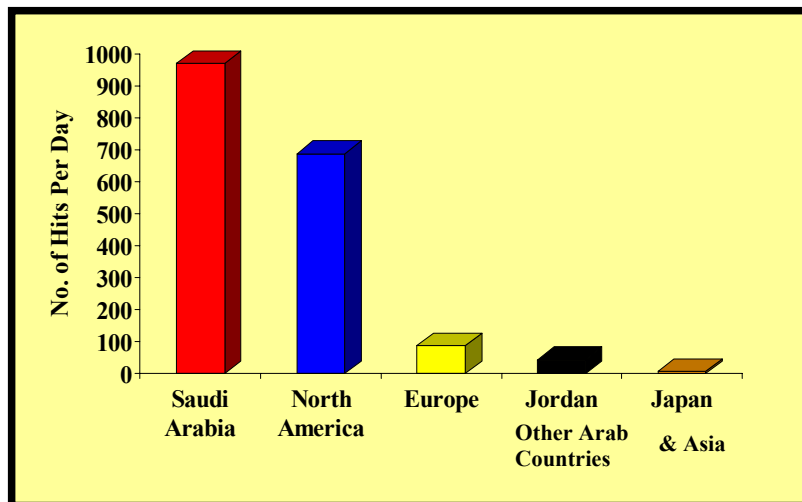
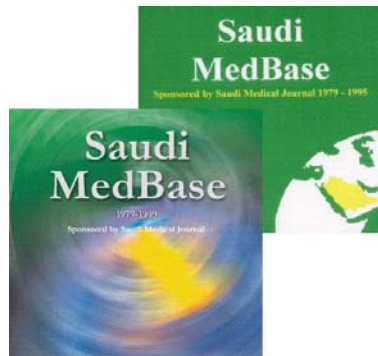


Figure 4: Active Countries visiting SMJ website

We have also been receiving inquiries and suggestions of electronic submission of articles and electronic review process. We are in the process of considering these suggestions and we are looking forward to executing these plans in the future in order to gratify our valued readers.



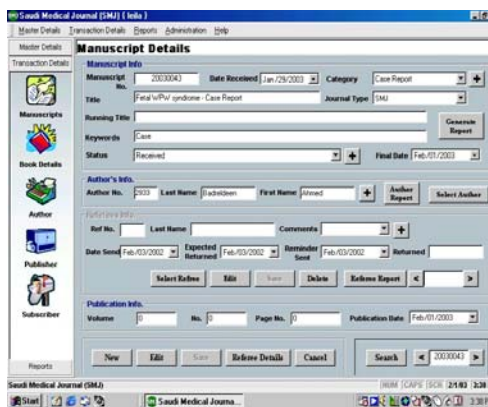
SAUDI MEDBASE 1st & 2nd EDITION

We are pleased to launch the Saudi MedBase 2nd Edition, a compilation of all literatures published in other highly acclaimed medical journals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the period 1979 to 1999. We earlier released the first edition of Saudi Medbase in early 2000, which initially contained literatures published for the period of 1979 to 1995.

Since the successful launching of its first edition, we thought of developing a more advanced edition with a wider scope of literatures. The Saudi Medbase 2nd Edition is now available at a reasonable price of SR100 however; it comes free-of-charge for every 2-year subscription of Saudi Medical Journal.

DATABASE TRACKING SYSTEM

A state-of-the-art manuscript tracking system for Saudi Medical Journal has just been developed. In order to meet the demands of the increasing number of manuscripts, reviewers and subscribers, Saudi Medical Journal has invested on a database tracking system that would ease review process, speed tracking system, and define reviewers and perfect subscribers' list.



EDITING

Prepared by:

SUSAN DOUGLAS – *Assistant Editor*

CLAIRE RIVERS – *Desktop Publisher*

LIGAYA LEGASPI– *Desktop Publisher*

EDITING: A 5-YEAR OVERVIEW

There can be no doubt that Saudi Medical Journal is a success story with an increasing number of submissions (+124% from 1998), increasing number of pages (+91% from 1998), an increasing impact factor and the launch of the web page and electronic version of the journal. We have to recognize the outstanding work of the submitting authors, the staff at the editorial office, and the readers, who have all, contributed to this Journal.

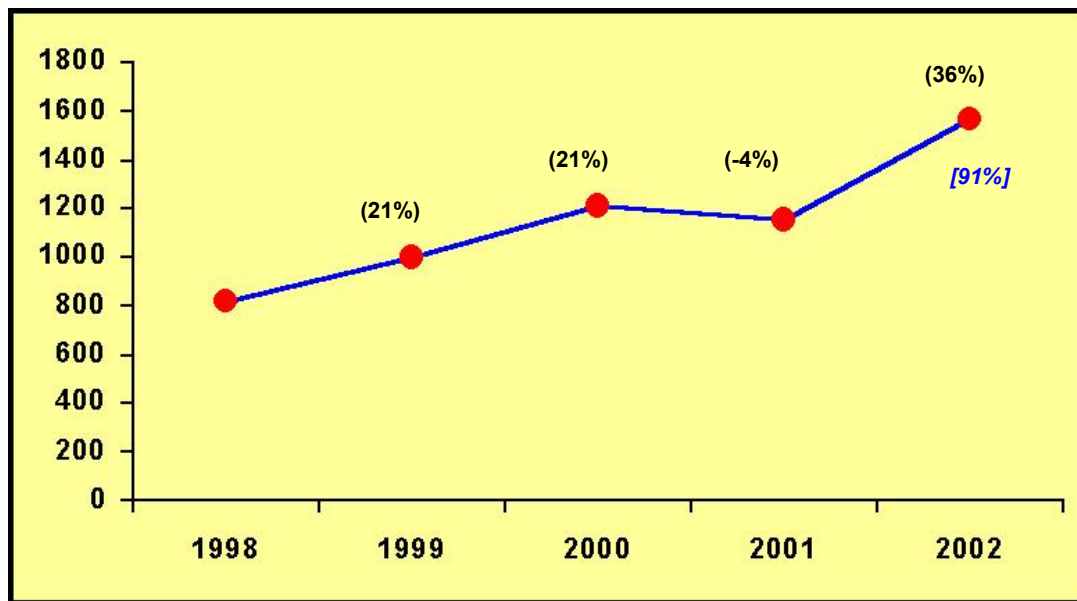
OUTCOME FOR YEAR 2002

This year we received 587 manuscripts with an increase of 42% from last year and an overall increase of 124% in the last 5 years from 1998. The rejection rate for this year was 56% compared to 38% last year and 30% in 1998. We published 1572 pages with a 36% increase from last year and a 91% increase from 1998 (*Table 1 & Figure 1*). The turnover time from submission to acceptance for this year was 3.3 months, the same as last year, but lower by 35% than it was in 1998 at 5.1 months. The original articles still constitute the main subject of each issue (*Table 2 & Figure 2*). Our articles are still mainly from the Kingdom, but we are receiving more articles from the Arab world and other regional countries, such as, Turkey, Iran, India and Pakistan (*Table 3 & Figure 3*). Despite the increase in the number of publications, we will still run monthly this year, in the future we may increase publication to twice monthly. We also started to include related abstracts for some articles from the Saudi Med base this will continue over the coming years. The year 2002 also marked the introduction of the new Highlights section. This appears at the beginning of each issue, and readers can quickly scan through a summary of some of the more interesting articles in that issue.

QUALITY CONTROL SECTION. In the year 2002 Susan Douglas was appointed as Quality Control Officer to ensure the excellence of the journal and to handle all the complaints arising between the journal, the authors, the reviewers and the publisher. This was very productive and in the coming years this will not be confined to the Quality Control Officer, but we will appoint an Ombudsman.

Table 1: No. of Pages Printed for Saudi Medical Journal 1998 to 2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
No. of Pages	822	998	1215	1158	1572
Percentage	91%	21%	21%	-4%	36%

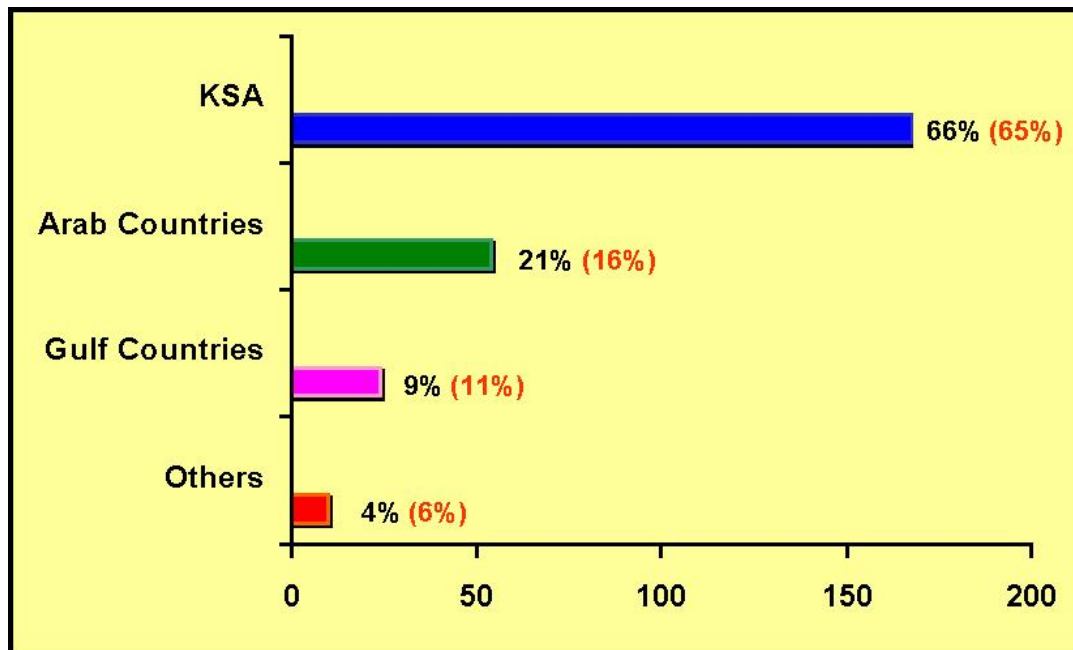


(%) Yearly Growth Rate
[%] Growth Rate over 5 years

Figure 1: Number of Pages Printed for SMJ (1998 to 2002)

Table 2: Country of Origin of Articles Published in SMJ (1998 – 2002)

Origin	No. of Articles Published in 1998 (%)	No. of Articles Published in 1999 (%)	No. of Articles Published in 2000 (%)	No. of Articles Published in 2001 (%)	No. of Articles Published in 2002 (%)
KSA	122 (67)	146 (65)	168 (66)	153 (62)	168 (66)
Gulf Countries	17 (9)	23 (10)	24 (9)	50 (20)	24 (9)
Arab Countries	32 (17)	36 (16)	54 (21)	28 (8)	54 (21)
Others	13 (7)	20 (9)	10 (4)	25 (10)	10 (4)
Total	184 (100)	225 (100)	256 (100)	248 (100)	256 (100)



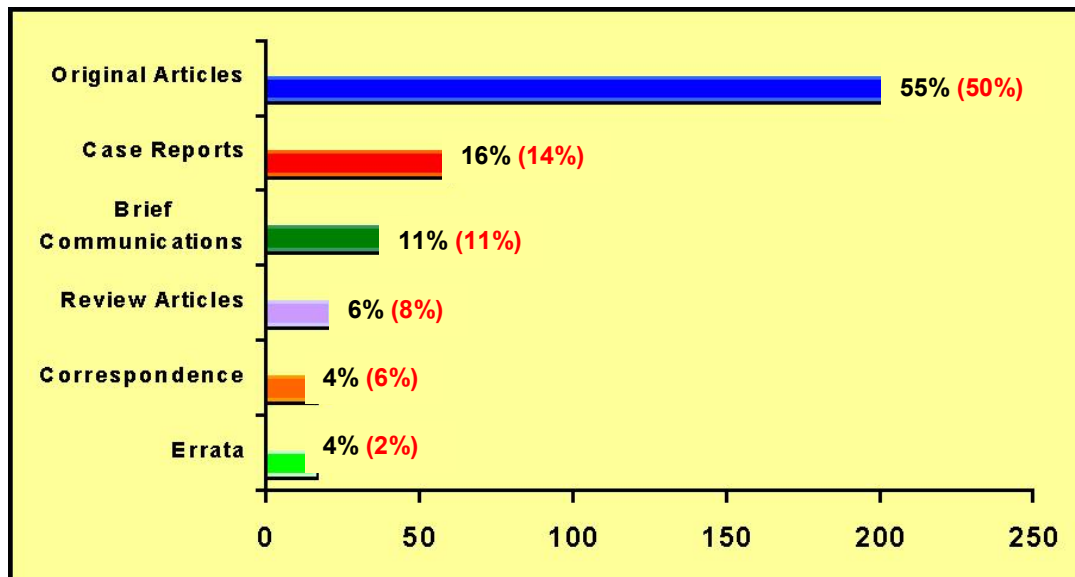
(%) Mean for years 1998-2002

Figure 2: Country of Origin of Articles Published in SMJ (1998 – 2002)

Table 3: Type of Manuscripts published in SMJ (1998 - 2002)

Type of Manuscript	No. of Articles Published in 1998 (%)	No. of Articles Published in 1999 (%)	No. of Articles Published in 2000 (%)	No. of Articles Published in 2001 (%)	No. of Articles Published in 2002 (%)
Review Articles*	20 (10.9)	23 (8.1)	29 (8.7)	26 (9.1)	21 (5.7)
Original Articles*	115 (62.5)	123 (43.3)	130 (38.9)	145 (50.9)	202 (54.6)
Case Reports*	30 (16.3)	42 (14.8)	54 (16.1)	29 (10.2)	59 (15.9)
Brief Communications*	19 (10.3)	37 (13)	43 (12.9)	27 (9.5)	41 (11.1)
Correspondence**	16 (8.7)	17 (6)	24 (7.2)	13 (4.6)	16 (4.3)
Book Reviews**	35 (19)	38 (13.4)	47 (14.1)	40 (14)	15 (4.1)
Errata**	4 (2.2)	4 (1.4)	7 (2.1)	5 (1.7)	16 (4.3)
Total	184	284	334	285	370

** Not included in the total number of statistics



(%) Mean for years 1998-2002

Figure 3: Type of Manuscripts published in SMJ (1998 - 2002)

The first detailed Quality Control report is included in the Annual Report and was sent to members of the Editorial and Advisory Board, and we have received very positive feedback:

"I commend Saudi Medical Journal for taking such an important step in establishing a Quality Control Section. The positive effect on the quality of the journal is already seen in your management."

"This is great! It shows our strength and weaknesses, and provides a way to improve SMJ and fine tune the instructions to authors. I think all issues addressed have been dealt with in a reasonable and acceptable manner."

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS FOR 2003

Although the journal is now competitive indexed journal, we are still committed to our ambitious plan for this year and the any years to follow. Our plans for the coming year are outlined.

CONTENT. This year we will concentrate on the quality in addition to the look and the size of the Journal. Due to a steady increase in the number of publications, we suspect that the rejection rate will be increased. Although this is sometimes painful, we believe it is necessary.

The reader will notice some changes in the layout of the Journal, and the Highlights section is now an established part of each issue. There will be changes in the tables and figures, for the better. Errata notices will appear in the website and be sent to the National Library of Medicine to be linked to all the manuscripts on Pubmed. We have omitted Letters to the Editor and replaced them by Brief Communications. The size of the Journal will be enlarged in width but not in length. Lastly, Instructions to the Authors will now be available in our website and not published in each issue, but will appear once at the end of each sub-volume.

CHANGES TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM JANUARY 2003

- ◆ Each year the journal will now comprise 2 volumes - Jan - June will be the 1st volume, July - December the 2nd volume. Full indexes will be included in both the June and December issues.
- ◆ Addition of the website address and the Founded date to the front cover and page numbers to spine. Possible addition of SMJ slogan - to be decided.
- ◆ The width of the Journal will now change from 20 cm to 21 cm, the inside margins will change from 1.3 cm to 1.5 cm.
- ◆ The layout of the editorial board will be updated.
- ◆ Section Headings to change to Helvetica Black font, colored green and blocked to the left for odd numbered pages and block to the right for even numbered pages.
- ◆ The title of articles will now be Charcoal bold, size 24.
- ◆ For the section on original articles - section will be changed to "articles".
- ◆ Tables will no longer have vertical lines, but transverse lines and borders will remain in place. N will be used for the total number; and n will be used for the subset total. Tables may be centered across 2 columns, and the titles for tables - if long enough - may appear at the side of the table, to avoid having to stretch the table across the columns. If a table comprises only 2 columns, and the 2nd is text, you may include one vertical line.
- ◆ The text of tables and figure legends will now appear in Helvetica black.
- ◆ Abbreviations will be used throughout the abstracts and main text in the expanded form with the exception of those listed in the AMA Manual of Style. No abbreviations will be used in the titles.
- ◆ In the references section the names of the Journals will now appear in bold.
- ◆ If references are to appear in tables and they have not previously been cited in the text of the article, the reference number will run on consecutively from the last reference number cited in the text of the article i.e. Last reference in the text 29 - first reference in the table 30 - regardless of where the tables appear in the article.
- ◆ In the brief communication section - items will now be run-on separated by a dotted line. Correspondence will now start with "To the Editor:" in bold and italics. Same for "Reply from the Authors:"

- ◆ Spelling checking will now be carried out on articles in word and ready set go with the use of Merriam Webster, while typesetting the article, and also again when page numbering the folder.

◆ AMENDMENTS TO INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:

1. Instructions to Authors will now appear at the front of the issue between the contents page and the highlights in the January and July issues only. Instructions to Authors and Uniform Requirements will be made available on the web page. A sentence to this effect will be added to the introductory pages of the journal.
 2. References throughout the text in submitted manuscripts must be in bold.
 3. Addition of a sentence indicating that the place and time period of each study should be stated in the methods section of the abstract and the main methods section of each paper. This will now be a prerequisite for processing of any papers.
 4. Addition of sentence indicating: Upon acceptance of a paper all authors must be able to provide the full paper for each reference cited upon request at any time up to publication. Failure to do so may result in the paper being withdrawn from the journal.
 5. Addition of list of accepted unexpanded abbreviations from the AMA Manual of Style.
- ◆ The end of volume indexes should now include a section on Errata notices published throughout the year. We should also indicate in the contents index if an errata notice was published for any article.

SUPPLEMENTS. The journal has published a number of special issues in the past in the Arabic language. This year we are planning to issue 2 special supplements, one on Pediatric Surgery with Assia Al-Rawaf as the Guest Editor and the second on Cancer in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with Shouki Bazarbashi as the Guest Editor. Additional supplements on important courses, workshops and symposia are also planned for the coming years.

BINDER. Each yearly volume will be split into 2 sub-volumes with 2 binders for each annual volume. With each bound issue, we will also include a CD containing all literature published for that period.

EQUIPMENT. In 2001, we invested in new equipment for the Editing Department. This year we plan to upgrade the remaining older equipment, as we have been experience some time consuming conflicts with formatting, software and graphics programs.

STAFFING LEVELS. Although the output of the Journal has increased significantly in the last number of years, and the introduction of the electronic version of the Journal, the number of staff within the Editing Department has remained constant. This has resulted in a maximum workload for each member of staff and has caused delays in publication times during holiday periods. To overcome this problem, we are planning to introduce a new member of staff to the Editing Department, increasing the Editing team to 4 members.

PROBLEMS. Incomplete reference information is the number one area in which there is lacking information, or misinformation in an article. When the author is asked to provide the original paper, he is often unable to do so. This may be due to a number of reasons, the not least of which is the use of secondary references by authors. It is clearly stated in the Uniform Requirements that all references must be verified by the author(s) against the original document. To try to overcome the use of secondary referencing, we shall include in the instructions to authors a sentence to indicate that upon acceptance of a paper all authors should be able to provide the full article for each reference upon request.

MARKETING MARKETING

Prepared by:

GHADA AL AHMED – *Marketing Manager*

LEILA MEDRANO – *Graphic Designer*

MARKETING

KSA	3289 (50%)
ARAB COUNTRIES	1355 (21%)
NORTH AMERICA	871 (13%)
GULF	399 (6%)
EUROPE	350 (5%)
ASIA	291 (4%)
AFRICA	26 (.3%)
AUSTRALIA	15 (.2%)
TOTAL	6596 (100%)

SUBSCRIBERS

Saudi Medical Journal has maintained a considerable number of subscribers until the end of year 2002. Fifty percent of our subscribers are from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia & the other 50% are dividing among the other Arab countries which consist of 21%, 13% North America, 6% Gulf, 5% Europe, 4% Asia, .3% Africa & .2% for Australia.

SUBSCRIBERS' TRACKING SYSTEM

The growing number of subscribers has been our driving force to develop a state-of-the-art Subscriber Tracking System for Saudi Medical Journal. The system is a far more advanced version of the old system that we had in the past years. It has the capacity to store huge files without affecting its performance. It provides a faster, more efficient and more detailed subscriber management.



SAUDI MED J HISTORY IN ARABIC

Saudi Medical Journal Online offers easy access to a number of important features of the Journal. One of these many features is the access to the Journal's history in Arabic. By just a click on the mouse, online visitors may access information on how and when the journal started and key personalities behind the emergence of Saudi Medical Journal.



ARABIC SPECIAL ISSUE

Saudi Medical Journal is publishing a Special Arabic Issue entitled Health & Life. The purpose of this special publication is to reach out to the local readers in the Kingdom through the articles written by topnotch medical experts tackling on important health issues.

المجلة الطبية السعودية

تقرير دائرة التسويق للعام 2002

حققت دائرة التسويق في المجلة الطبية السعودية في العام 2002م، نجاح وارتقاء ملحوظ كان له الأثر في احتلالها موقعا ممتازا من ناحية درجة الانتشار ودرجة القرائية وأيضا استخدامها كمرجع بواسطة المهن الطبية في المملكة العربية السعودية ومنطقة الخليج والشرق الأوسط ودول العالم بالمقارنة مع المجلات الطبية العالمية. وفيما يلي عرضا لأهم التطورات التي حققت في هذا العام، والتي أعطت ثمارا طيبة وذلك بجهود العاملين والتعاون المستمر والقائم بين مكتب التحرير ودائرة التسويق:

توزيع المجلة:

حققت المجلة الطبية السعودية ومن خلال الخطط الجديدة الخاصة بالتوزيع والانتشار حيث أصبح للمجلة قائمتها البريدية والتي تحتوي على عدد مضاعف من المشتركين في المملكة العربية السعودية ومنطقة الخليج والدول العربية وكثير من دول العالم حيث قائمة بريد شاملة يزيد عددها باستمرار من خلال طلبات الاشتراك التي تصل إلى المجلة يوميا من مختلف مناطق المملكة ودول الخليج والدول العربية وكثير من دول العالم. مع تطور عالم الاتصالات أسست المجلة الطبية السعودية موقعا للمجلة على شبكة الانترنت

www.smj.org.sa

وهذا الموقع متوفرا لمشاركي المجلة حيث يحتوي على المقالات التي نشرت بالمجلة من عدد يناير 2000 وما يليه من أعداد لاحقة إيماننا منا لمسايرة التطور العلمي المتسارع باختلاف أنواعه لما فيه خير المجلة وأيضا تحقيق الفائدة المرجوة لقرائها.

الإصدار الشهري:

مواظبة المجلة على النهج في الحرص بالانتقاء الجيد للمقالات من قبل المحررين ومراجعتها من قبل أفضل المراجعين محليا وعالميا وخضع نشر المقالات والأبحاث لمواصفات محددة وصارمة تضع اعتبارا للقيمة العلمية للبحث وظل القرار الخاص بالنشر يتخذ بعد نقاش مشترك بين مجموع من المحكمين المختصين والمحافظة على إصدار كل عدد جديد بوقته المحدد وبدون أي تأخير جعل المجلة تحافظ وتستمر في تحسن المستوى العلمي وزيادة مستمرة للمشاركات المختلفة من مختلف مناطق المملكة ودول الجوار ودول العالم وأيضا زيادة مستمرة للمقالات الأصلية مما يعكس رغبة الباحثين والأطباء في نشر أعمالهم الأبتكارية في مجلة ذات نوعية وامتياز.

مجلة مسجلة في المكتبة الطبية العالمية في واشنطن

تشهد المملكة تطورات كمية ونوعية في جميع المجالات وخاصة في مجال تقديم الخدمات الصحية يعكس اهتمام الدولة وحكومة خادم الحرمين الشريفين المتواصل للنهوض والارتقاء بالخدمات الصحية كغيرها من قطاعات التنمية وبما أن التعليم والإعلام الطبي أحد روافد النهضة الصحية وأن المجلة الطبية السعودية وسيلة مهمة لنشر الأبحاث الطبية وذات مستوى متميز تم اختيار المجلة الطبية السعودية لتكون مجلة مسجلة كمرجع طبي عالمي الذي يصدر عن المكتبة الطبية العالمية في واشنطن بالولايات المتحدة الأمريكية والتي تعتبر أهم مرجع طبي عالمي معترف به من قبل جميع الجامعات والمعاهد والمؤسسات التعليمية الطبية في جميع دول العالم.

السبق الصحفي:

الاستمرار في الاتصال بالصحف الصادرة محليا وذلك لنشر ملخصات المقالات التي تهتم الجمهور بشكل عام وبالفعل تم نشر عدد كبير من ملخصات المقالات في صحف يومية (كصحيفة الشرق الأوسط، الجزيرة، البلاد، الرياض، اليوم، البلاد) مما أدى إلى توثيق العلاقة بين المجلة والوسائل الإعلامية وأيضا كانت وسيلة للانتشار الأوسع خاصة أنه تم الترويج إلى مصدر نشر هذه الأبحاث.

الإعلانات:

تمثل المجلة الطبية السعودية أقوى وسيلة للإعلان والانتشار في السوق السعودية وأسواق دول الخليج والوطن العربي لذا استثمرت شركات الأدوية والمعدات الطبية المعلنة سابقا بإعلاناتها بل أضافت إعلانات جديدة وأيضا كان هناك إعلانات لمؤسسات وشركات جديدة والمجلة لا تنظر إلى النشاط الإعلاني من المنظور التجاري فقط ولكن باعتباره واحدا من وسائل نشر المعرفة الصحية لكل الممارسين في الحقل الطبي من إداريين وفنيين.

المؤتمرات الطبية:

تلقت المجلة الطبية السعودية وبكميات كبيرة إعلانات عن المؤتمرات واللقاءات والندوات الطبية والنشاطات الأكاديمية من المستشفيات وكليات الطب والمعاهد الصحية من المملكة وخارجها حيث كانت أجندة النشاطات الأكاديمية الطبية زاخرة بهذه الإعلانات على مدار إصدارات هذا العام كما شاركت المجلة بحضور مكثف لبعض المؤتمرات العالمية التي عقدت في مدينة الرياض ووزع كثير من أعداد المجلة للحاضرين لهذه الندوات كم تم التعريف عن المجلة للباحثين العالميين القادمين من دول عربية وعالمية مختلفة وتم نشر كثير من الأبحاث التي طرحت في المؤتمرات بأعداد مختلفة من المجلة.

الصحة والحياة (عدد خاص باللغة العربية يصدر عن المجلة الطبية السعودية)

المجلة الطبية السعودية وسيلة مهمة لنشر الأبحاث الطبية وبما أن بعض أعداد المجلة تحتوي على مقالات تهم الجمهور بشكل عام لذا رأينا من واجبنا وواجب الأطباء والعلماء نحو المجتمع توعية الجمهور بالمجال الصحي والطبي ونشر المعلومات الطبية من مصدر يتوخى دقة المعلوماتية وصحتها لذا طلب من مؤلفين هذه المقالات إعادة كتابتها وتبسيط المعلومات الطبية وأيضا تم دعوة عدد من الأطباء المميزين في مختلف التخصصات الطبية لنشر مقالات في هذا العدد الخاص (الصحة والحياة) الذي صدر في فبراير.

المجلة تحرص على مكانتها القيادية وامتيازها، طموحاتنا وقدراتنا كبيرة لذا نأمل من العلي القدير التوفيق والنجاح لتحقيق مزيدا من التقدم والنجاح لتبقى المجلة مفخرة وطنية ووسيلة في غاية الأهمية لنشر المعرفة الطبية.

غادة الأحمد

المحررة العربية ومديرة التسويق

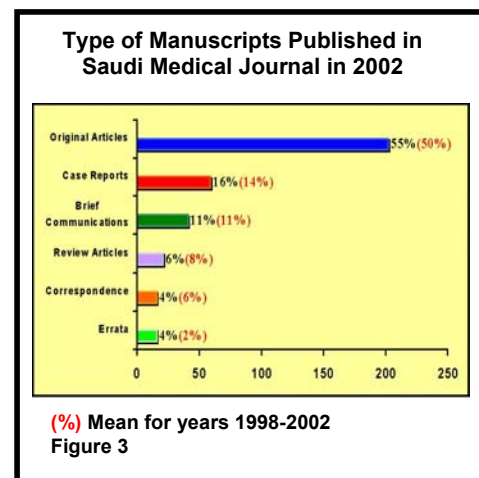
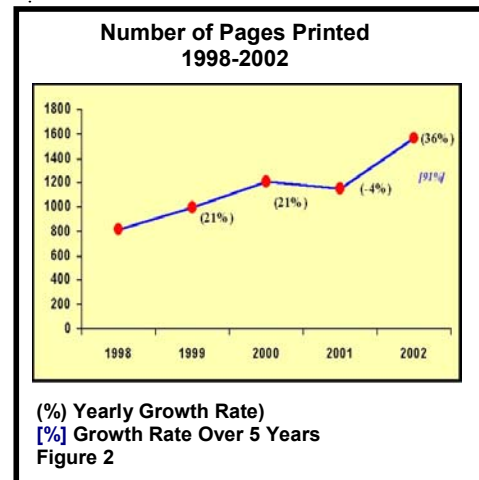
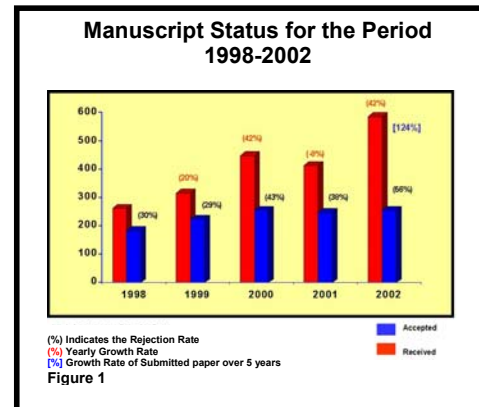
Saudi Medical Journal A college by itself!

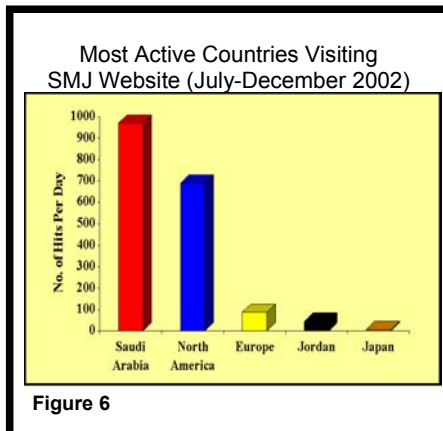
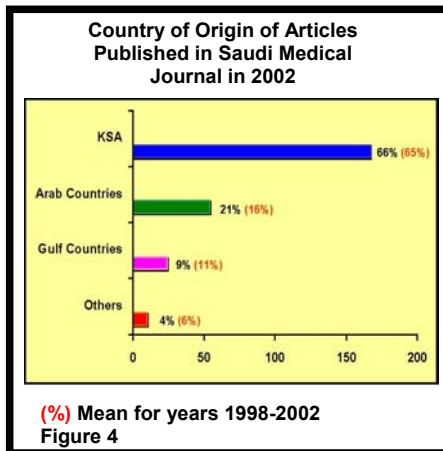
Basim A. Yaqub, MD, FRCP, Saleh M. Al-Deeb, MD, FRCP

Saudi Medical Journal was founded in 1979. In 1999 it became monthly with a steady growth in manuscripts submitted and number of pages published. In the last 5 years, we have doubled in number of articles and pages published. In addition we achieved growth not only in quantity but also in quality. We have published many supplements and special issues in Arabic and English. In the year 2000, the journal was indexed by the National Library of Medicine in Medline and Pubmed. We also have established a website (www.smj.org.sa) with an average of 1000 hits daily. We recollected all the published data from all journals published in Saudi Arabia from 1979 until the end of 1999, in a special CD, MedBase.

Annual Report. This year we received 587 manuscripts with an increase of 42% from last year and overall increase of 124% in the last 5 years from 1998. The rejection rate for this year was 56% compared to 38% last year, and 30% in 1998 (Figure 1). We published 1572 pages with a 36% increase from last year and a 91% increase from 1998 (Figure 2). The turnover time from submission to acceptance for this year was 3.3 months, the same as last year, but lower by 35% than it was in 1998 at 5.1 months. Each yearly volume will be split into 2 sub-volumes with 2 binders for each annual volume. With each bound issue we will also include a CD containing all literature published for that period. The original articles still constitute the main subject of each issue (Figure 3). Our articles are still mainly from the Kingdom, but we are receiving more articles from the Arab world and other regional countries, such as, Turkey, Iran, India and Pakistan (Figure 4). Despite the increase in the number of publications we will still run monthly this year, however, in the future we may increase publication to twice monthly. We also started to include related abstracts for some articles, from the Saudi MedBase (Figure 5), this will continue over the coming years.

This year the reader will notice a major change in the Editorial Board, and we would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board who have retired at the end of 2002: Abdul-Aziz Al-Meshari, Fahad Al-





Muhanna, Fahad Al-Rabiah, Zain Al-Shareef, Bahaa AbaAlkhail, Menwar Anazi, George Araj (Lebanon), Talal Bakhsh, Hassan Bassiouny (Egypt), Abdulbari Bener (UAE), Joseph Dagher (USA), Dirk Deleu (Oman), Mohsen El-Hazmi, Hatem El-Shanti (Jordan), Syed Haider (India), Khalid Haque (UK), Ali Ibrahim (Syria), and Tariq Noman (Yemen). Hussein Al-Freihi, Yagob Al-Mazrou, Nayef Al-Rodhan, Mohammed Abomelha, and Ahmed Kurdi retired from the Editorial Board and joined the Advisory Board. We would also like to thank Muhammad Al-Mufti, Mansour Al-Nozha and Khalid Tabbara who retired from the Advisory Board. We were deeply shocked and saddened by the departure of one of our eminent Advisory Board members, Professor George W. Bruyn, one of the founding pillars of the journal. We have invited an excellent faculty to join us in the Editorial Board in addition to those who remain and we hope that this new blood will maintain the progress of the journal. We would especially like to welcome and thank them for accepting our invitation to join our Editorial Board. The new faculty are: Hisham Akbar, Saeed Al-Ghamdi, Maher Al-Hadidi (Jordan), Hindi Al-Hindi, Abulrahman Al-Rajhi, Assia Al-Rawaf, Ammar Al-Rikabi (Qatar), Ali Al-Shehri, Shouki Bazarbashi, Ahmed Elzubier, Mohammed Fouda, Issam Hamadah, Ali Hajeer, Khalid Kalantan, Muhamad Majeed-Saidan, Ratib Mesleh, Adnan Mofiti, Sadek Pharaon (Syria), Khalid Qattan, Assem Rostom (UK), Mona Shahed and Ghazi Tadmouri (Turkey). Also, Ashry Gad Mohammed (supervising statistics), and Rabie Abdel-Halim (editing History of Medicine) will be added to our Editorial Board. There will be some changes in the Editorial Office where Susan Douglas, in addition to her post as the Copy Editor will be Assistant Editor of the journal and Joyce Figuerres, in addition to her post as Editorial Manager, will supervise the Journal website.

In the year 2002 we appointed Susan Douglas as Quality Control Officer to ensure the excellence of the journal and to handle all the complaints arising between the journal, the authors, the reviewers and the publisher. This was very productive and in the coming years this will not be confined to the Quality Control Officer, but we will appoint an Ombudsmen. The first detailed Quality Control report is published in this issue and will be sent to members of the Editorial and Advisory Board for their comments.

The Future. Although the journal is now a competitive indexed journal, we are still committed to

our ambitious plan for this year and the many years to follow. Our plans for the coming year are outlined.

Content. This year we will concentrate on the quality in addition to the look and the size of the journal. Due to a steady increase in number of publications, we suspect that the rejection rate will be increased. Although this is sometimes painful, we believe it is necessary.

The reader will notice some changes in the layout of the journal, and the highlights section is now an established part of each issue. There will be changes in the tables and figures, for the better. Errata notices will appear in the website and be sent to the National Library of Medicine to be linked to all the manuscripts on Pubmed. We have omitted Letters to the Editor and replaced them by Brief Communications. The size of the Journal will be enlarged in width but not in length. Lastly, Instructions to the Authors will now be available in our web site and not published in each issue, but will appear once at the end of each sub-volume.

Website. Our website has been modified to accommodate an extensive search facility. We plan to expand on electronic communication through our website, and we may consider sending articles for review electronically through the website, once we ensure confidentially with a protected password for each manuscript. Our website is still in the developing stages, but still attracts 30,000 hits per month. The highest hits were from Saudi Arabia & North America followed by Europe, Arab countries and Japan (Figure 6). We hope to make many more improvements for the benefit of the readers and reviewers. Any suggestions or comments regarding our web page should be sent directly to Joyce Figuerres, through e-mail via the web page.

Supplements. The journal has published a number of special issues in the past in the Arabic language. This year we will have a new endeavor in which we will publish a well designed issue in Arabic called "Health and Life" which is addressed not only to physicians but also to the public. It will be edited by our Arabic Editor, Ghada Al-Ahmed. It will deal with many topics important to the society addressed by prominent clinicians and scientists giving real facts on topics to educate the public by evidence based rather than tabloid medicine. This endeavor was well supported by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz, our Patron, and Ketab Al- Otaibi, our

Editorial Director. In addition to this we are planning to have 2 supplements, one on Pediatric Surgery with Assia Al-Rawaf as the Guest Editor and the second on Cancer in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with Shouki Bazarbashi as the Guest Editor, both have joined our Editorial Board. Additional supplements on important courses, workshops and symposia are also planned for the coming years. We are willing to publish more supplements on important academic activities in the Kingdom or outside. We have appointed Susan Douglas, to be Assistant to the Guest Editors for any future supplements.

Courses, workshops and symposia. At the beginning of this year, SMJ entered into an exciting venture: The Second Intensive Course on (1) Planning and Performing a Research Study and (2) Writing and Presenting a Scientific Paper in conjunction with the Research Committee of the Department of Surgery at King Saud University. A report on this symposium will be published in one of the coming issues. We have approached the East Mediterranean Medical Journal and the Bahrain Medical Bulletin with a view to holding a combined meeting on Medical Journalism, which has resulted in a Regional Conference to be held in Cairo 24-27 November this year. The objectives of this conference will be to review the current status of medical journals published in the Region. This will include assessing the problems, developing guidelines and establishing a code of ethics. A one day training workshop for editors will be conducted. As a result of the meeting we hope to establish combined Council of Editors of medical journals in the Region. Editors, interested health educators, biomedical researchers, authors, publishers, scientists and academicians are asked to participate.

The journal has gone so far, not only as a basin for publication of manuscripts on medical research, but also in society education by publishing Arabic issues. Our future vision is to be part of training and education, and set a foundation for a college in medical journalism not only in the Kingdom but also in our area. Our future plans are very ambitious but we cannot do it alone without the help of the Colleges, Universities, researchers and subscribers.

At a time where "civilized" countries are busy with war and terrorism in our area, Saudi Medical Journal shines monthly as a civilized face coming from Arabia.

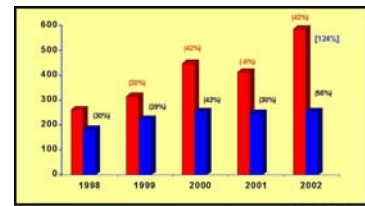
المجلة الطبية السعودية
كُليَّة في حد ذاتها

صالح الذبيب، بسيم يعقوب

تأسست المجلة الطبية السعودية عام 1979، وفي عام 1999 أصبحت مجلة شهرية وشهدت نموا مطردا في عدد المقالات العلمية المقدمة وعدد الصفحات المنشورة. وفي السنوات الخمس الأخيرة ضاعفنا عدد المقالات وعدد الصفحات المنشورة وحققنا فوق ذلك نموا ليس من حيث الكم فحسب بل ومن حيث النوع أيضا. ولقد نشرنا العديد من الملاحق والأعداد الخاصة باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية. وفي عام 2000، تمت فهرسة وشبكة باي ميد Medline المجلة لدى المكتبة الوطنية للطب في شبكة ميدلاين Pubmed. كما قمنا بتأسيس موقع على الإنترنت وهو www.smj.org.sa. يبلغ متوسط عمليات البحث اليومية فيه 1.000 عملية. وقد قمنا بإعادة جمع كافة المقالات المنشورة من جميع المجلات التي صدرت في المملكة العربية السعودية ابتداء من عام 1979 وحتى نهاية عام 1999 في قرص مدمج خاص باسم القاعدة الطبية Medbase السعودية.

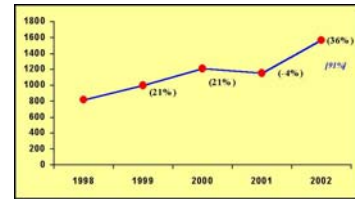
التقرير السنوي تلقينا في هذا العام 587 مقالة بزيادة قدرها 42% عن السنة الماضية وبزيادة كلية قدرها 124% خلال السنوات الخمس الماضية ابتداء من عام 1998. وقد وصل معدل رفض المقالات لهذا العام 56% مقارنة بمعدل 38% السنة الماضية و30% (كما قمنا بنشر 1572 صفحة بزيادة قدرها 36% عن Fig. 1 في عام 1998). وقد بلغت الفترة Fig. 2 السنة الماضية وبزيادة قدرها 91% عن عام 1998). الزمنية الفاصلة بين التقديم والقبول لهذا العام 3.3 أشهر وهي نفس الفترة للعام الماضي ولكنها أقصر بنسبة 35% عنها في العام 1998 حيث كانت تمتد إلى 5.1 أشهر. وسوف يتم تقسيم كل مجلد سنوي إلى مجلدين فرعيين لكل سنة. كما سنرفق مع كل عدد مجلد قرصا مدمجا يحتوي على جميع المواد المنشورة لتلك الفترة. وماتزال (كما لا يزال مصدر Fig. 3 المقالات الأصلية تشكل الموضوع الرئيسي لكل عدد المقالات التي ننشرها المملكة العربية السعودية بصورة رئيسية ولكننا نلقى المزيد من المقالات من العالم العربي والبلدان المجاورة مثل تركيا وإيران والهند وباكستان). وعلى الرغم من زيادة عدد الطباعات فسوف نظل نصدر المجلة شهريا هذا Fig. 4 العام ولكننا قد نزيد عدد الطباعات إلى عديدين كل شهر في السنوات القادمة. كما بدأنا ندخل الملخصات ذات الصلة لبعض المقالات من القاعدة الطبية السعودية Medbase (وسوف يستمر ذلك على مدى السنوات القادمة. Fig. 5)

Manuscript Status for the Period 1998-2002



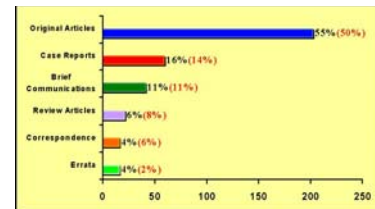
(%) Indicates the Rejection Rate
(%) Yearly Growth Rate
(%) Growth Rate of Submitted paper over 5 years
Figure 1

Number of Pages Printed 1998-2002

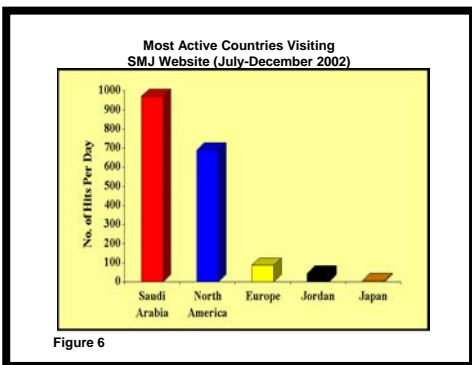
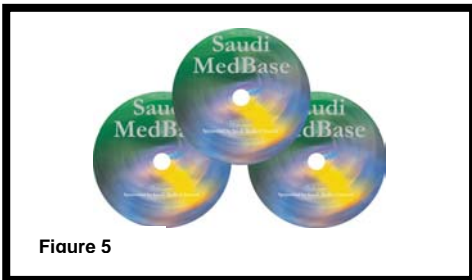
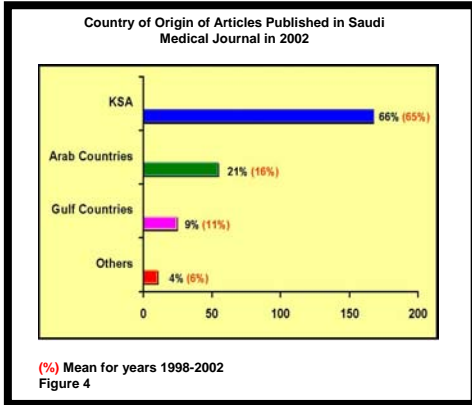


(%) Yearly Growth Rate
(%) Growth Rate Over 5 Years
Figure 2

Type of Manuscripts Published in SMJ in 2002



(%) Mean for years 1998-2002
Figure 3



أما في مجال النشر العلمي فقد شهدنا في هذا المجال تطوراً ملحوظاً حيث بلغ عدد المقالات المنشورة في المجلة خلال الفترة من 1998 إلى 2002 حوالي 1000 مقالة، وهو ما يعكس الاهتمام المتزايد بالمجال الطبي في المملكة العربية السعودية. كما أن نسبة المقالات المنشورة من قبل الأطباء السعوديين بلغت 66%، مما يدل على ارتفاع مستوى البحوث العلمية المحلية. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإن نسبة المقالات المنشورة من قبل الأطباء من دول الخليج العربي بلغت 9%، ومن دول العالم العربي 21%، ومن دول أخرى 4%.

فيما يتعلق بزيارة الموقع الإلكتروني للمجلة، فقد شهدنا خلال الفترة من يوليو إلى ديسمبر 2002 ارتفاعاً ملحوظاً في عدد الزيارات، حيث بلغ عدد الزيارات اليومية من دول الخليج العربي حوالي 950 زيارة، ومن دول أمريكا الشمالية حوالي 700 زيارة، ومن دول أوروبا حوالي 100 زيارة، ومن دول الأردن حوالي 50 زيارة، ومن دول اليابان حوالي 20 زيارة.

أما في مجال الخدمات الصحية، فقد شهدنا خلال الفترة من 1998 إلى 2002 تطوراً ملحوظاً في الخدمات الصحية المقدمة للمرضى، حيث تم إنشاء العديد من المستشفيات الحديثة، وتحسين الخدمات الصحية المقدمة للمرضى، مما أدى إلى ارتفاع مستوى الرعاية الصحية في المملكة العربية السعودية.