Comment on biomedical research in Saudi Arabia

To the Editor

We read with interest the paper of Al-Bishri titled “Evaluation of biomedical research in Saudi Arabia” published in the Saudi Medical Journal. In this article, an important erratum appears. While the author stated that the study comprised the period of 2010-2011 years in abstract section, in the methods section it was mentioned that the search was limited to 2011-2012 period.

Secondly, we think that 2 more points in that paper deserve criticism. The legends of the first 3 tables are not informative enough. It is hard to understand that these 3 tables showed the number of articles of 2 years. At first glance, one can think that those tables showed the numbers of articles publishing in one year. But instead, it is seeing that it was for 2 years in the method section. Another criticism is that the author have not described the method clearly. It would be more understandable and repeatable if he would explain how he used the filters like human studies and how he excluded non-research articles as editorials, letters, and case reports.

Hüseyin Bayramlar
Remzi Karadag
Department of Ophthalmology
Faculty of Medicine
Istanbul Medeniyet University
Goztepe, Istanbul
Turkey

Reply from the Author

I would like to thank Prof. Bayramlar and Dr. Karadag for their interest in my article. First, the study comprised the period between January 2010 up to December 2011. A 2-year-period, as mentioned correctly in the abstract section. Unfortunately the period mentioned has been overseen by myself and the editorial team of the journal on the methods section of the manuscript during the review process of the article before its publication.

Jamal Albishri
Internal Medicine Department
Al Hada Hospital
Taif
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

References