Correspondence

New features in the Saudi Medical Journal

Sir,

I read with great interest your editorial message published in the May issue of Saudi Medical Journal.\(^1\) I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate you and your team in producing a journal at this standard which has attracted the attention of many investigators throughout the world. This however, is not only reflected by the number of papers published in the journal but also by the number of requests for reprints which we usually receive from all over the world as a response to our publications in the journal. As a reader, a reviewer and a publisher in the journal, I would like to draw your attention to the following points: (1) Some of the papers published in the section of original articles are very short and descriptive. Hence then, it may be better if you put them in a new section “as you are increasing the number of volumes” entitled Concise Communications or Short Reports. (2) A number of these papers have very general titles which make them sound like review articles while they are good medical, experimental and audit studies. Although this has nothing to do with the Editorial Board, some of the reviewers may be advised to criticize all the papers including the title and methodology where more biostatistical analysis are needed and not to restrict themselves to the body of the text. (3) The journal has published very good (but not many) papers about the medical education which mainly reflects the experience in Saudi Arabia.\(^2,3\) This has to be encouraged and more papers may be needed or even a section on “Continuing Medical Education (CME)” could be added. I believe this will be of great importance to the readers particularly from Arab countries where most of us will agree that the medical curriculum at the faculties of medicine has to be changed continuously to adopt the vast change in the medical knowledge.

I am sure your continuous efforts will flourish the prospects of Saudi Medical Journal into the next millennium.

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Reply from the Editors

We would like to thank Dr. Daw for his comments. Regarding the excellent suggestion he raised, publishing some manuscripts under the title of “Short Reports” has advantages, but it has the disadvantage of creating a new title by which subjects of the same theme may become scattered.

We agree that some article titles do sound like review articles, while they are original articles, and we will ask our reviewers from now on, not only to evaluate the originality of the manuscript and methods but also the title. Also our editorial staff, may ask authors to change the article title if it is not appropriate, however we will pay more attention to this in the future.

We welcome any manuscript on medical education worldwide, and we hope to invite an authority in this field.

References