

Special Article

The Arab Journal of Nephrology and Transplantation: the First Interim Report

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Five years have elapsed since the Arab Journal of Nephrology and Transplantation (AJNT) made its first appearance in September 2008. The decision to create AJNT had been taken a few months earlier during the meeting of the Arab Society of Nephrology and Transplantation (ASNRT) held in Jordan in January 2008. During that meeting, ASNRT board decided to maintain the society's journal "Kidney Forum" and launch another new Journal that reflects the name of the society in its title. Besides incorporating the proceeding of congresses held by ASNRT, the prime goal of this journal was to encourage young researchers in the Arab world to publish their work, to maintain good communication between ASNRT members and to facilitate joint research projects.

In that first issue, we urged ASNRT members to contribute their work to AJNT, and to have an active role in reviewing, editing and commenting on its content. We asked senior members of ASNRT to encourage their junior colleagues publish their work, which may not be easily accepted in the highly competitive international press, and to help young researchers write up their research by extending advice in good scientific writing.

We have come a long way since that time, and would like to take this stance to thank those who answered our plea, and helped nurture such a fledgling till it took off. No one deserves our gratitude better than Professor Assem El-Sherif, who has undertaken the responsibility of the Journal's "Associate Editor" since the first issues. He has consistently provided us with constructive feed back and deligently reviewed every mansucript published by the Journal.

The Journal's team of "Scientific Editors" started by four members: Dr. Elwaleed A. M. Elhassan, Dr. Mohamed B. Abdelraheem, Dr. Mohammed B Ghalib and Dr.

Sarra Elamin. Those were soon joined by Dr. Amel K. M. Saeed, Dr. Manal Ismail and Dr. Mazin Shigidi. Dr. Elwaleed Elhassan left us to the USA but remained closely associated with the Journal by electronic communication, so he efficiently kept his office as a "Scientific Editor". Because of her excellent organisation abilities and dedication Dr. Sarra Elamin was promoted to "Executive Editor" of the Journal. This small group of young dedicated nephrologists has undertaken the tedious task of revising, editing and sometimes re-writing manuscripts that had good substance but needed better writing.

The whole process of designing and preparing the Journal for press is currently undertaken by few dedicated persons, of whom we must mention Mr. Mohamed Abd Alazim and Mr. Khalid M Elhassan, who are also repponsible for the construction and maintenance of AJNT web site.

The numerous processes through which each issue of AJNT goes provide a good example of coordinated work that crosses country borders. The Journal's editor-in-chief and his team of scientific editors meet on weekly basis in offices provided and furnished by the National Ribat University in Khartoum, Sudan. The review process is undertaken by means of electronic communication with reviewers from most Arab and some non-Arab countries. Editing, drafting and designing the Journal is undertaken in these same offices. The Associate Editor, who resides in Egypt, is closely involved in this process. Once the final version of the Journal is prepared, a soft copy is sent by electronic mail to Al-Ahram press in Egypt with the assistance of Professor Assem El-Sherif and Ms Aliaa Awad. After printing, Ms Aliaa would arrange for hard copies of the Journal to be distributed to ASNRT members and other subscribers by mail.

In January 2011, AJNT became indexed in MEDLINE and this has contributed significantly to the Journal's

Table-1: Number and type of submitted and published manuscripts in different volumes of AJNT

	Volume 1 (2008)	Volumes 2 (2009)	Volume 3 (2010)	Volume 4 (2011)	Volume 5 (2012)	Volume 6 (2013)
Submitted articles	12	32	30	38	46	58
Published articles	7	26	26	24	26	28
Editorial	1	5	3	4	3	2
Original article	3	8	13	13	10	11
Case report/series	2	7	4	5	8	7
Review	0	4	2	2	3	2
Special article	1	1	2	0	0	1
Country data	0	0	1	0	1	4
Letter to the editor	0	1	1	0	1	1
Proceedings	1	0	0	0	0	0

Table-2: Source of manuscripts submitted to the Journal up to September 2013*

Country	Submitted Articles	Published Articles
Algeria	1	1
Egypt	40	24
Iraq	5	2
Kuwait	4	4
Lebanon	1	0
Libya	4	3
Morocco	15	12
Saudi Arabia	6	3
Sudan	47	34
Syria	1	0
Tunisia	5	2
United Arab Emirates	6	3
Other countries †	46	33

* Up to this date, no articles were submitted from Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Jordan, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia or Yemen.

† These include: India (8), Nigeria (8), UK (7), USA (7), Iran (6), Brazil (2), Ireland (2), Belgium (1), Canada (1), Czech (1), Italy (1), Pakistan (1) and Turkey (1).

recognition. The number, as well as the quality of submitted manuscripts has improved substantially since the first issues of the Journal. Our rejection rate has risen from about 13% to 52% and we have achieved a median time from submission to publication of about eight months. The types and sources of articles submitted and published in the Journal up to September 2013 are outlined in Tables 1 and 2.

Members of the Journal's editorial and advisory editorial boards are shown in Table-3. We have approached a large number of physicians, most of whom were nephrologists, with requests to help in the peer review process (Table-4). On average, 2.7 requests were sent per reviewer with a response rate of 47%. We would like to acknowledge our gratitude to a special group of reviewers who have tirelessly responded to our repeated review requests, and whose names are shown in Table-5.

During its course AJNT had to overcome a few hurdles. Now that the Journal is indexed in MEDLINE, and with an acceptable time-line between submission and publication, we hope that the Journal will continue its steady progress. The whole content of the Journal, including the Arabic translation of the abstracts, is made available online. However, we are still facing difficulties with the distribution of the Journal's hard copies. We would like to have copies of AJNT delivered to every renal practitioner in the Arab World, for it to fulfill its role in continuous medical education. Better distribution

Table-3: Members of the Journal's editorial and advisory editorial boards

Editorial Board		Advisory Editorial Board
Abdulla Al-Sayyari (KSA)	Mohamed Ben Hmida (Tunisia)	Abdulraouf Sharfi (Sudan)
Ahmed Adel Hassan (Egypt)	Riyad Said (Jordan)	Aziz EL Matri (Tunisia)
Ahsene Atik (Algeria)	Saeed MG Al-Ghamdi (KSA)	Meguid El-Nahas (UK)
Amin Roshdi Soliman (Egypt)	Salah Al Waheeb (Kuwait)	Mohammed H Abu-Zaid (Egypt)
Badria Alhermi (Bahrain)	Salih Al Shorafa (KSA)	Omer Ibrahim Abboud (Sudan)
Hesham Safouh (Egypt)	Wesam Ismail (Egypt)	Rashad Barsoum (Egypt)
Issam Francis (Kuwait)		Tareq Suheimat (Jordan)

Table-4: Reviewers who were asked to participate in the peer review process

Peer Reviewers			
Abdalghani Elsheikh	Besher Al-Attar	Lina Assad	Omar Shalhama
Abdulla Abdelrahman	Doaa Yousef	Mohamed Fouad	Osheik Abuaisa Seidi
Abdulla Al-Sayyari	Elfadil M Osman	Mohamed S Alkhalifa	Rashad Barsoum
Abdulraouf Sherfi	Emad Abdalla	Mawahib Idrissi	Riyad Said
Ahmed Adel Hasan	Fatiu Arogundade	Maysson M Osman	Saad Subahi
Ahsene Atik	Hani Hafiz	Mohamed Ben Hmida	Saeed El-Ghamdi
Ali Abdelsatir	Hesham Safouh	Mohamed Ghnaimat	Safa Abdelhameed
Al-Tigani M Ali	Hisham Hassan	Mohammed Hamdouk	Salih Al Shorafa
Amin Roshdi Soliman	Huda Hamid	Mohammed Elamin Elawad	Tareq Suhaimat
Amin M Hamzi	Ibrahim Fahal	Mohammed Ziad Soukiyyeh	Wasiu A. Olowu
Ammar Khamis	Ibtisam M Ali	Mustafa Nur Elhuda	Wesam Ismail
Aziz El-Matri	Issam Francis	Neveen Soliman	
Babikir G Kabbalo	Jaffar Malik	Norbert Lamier	
Badria Alhermi	Jamal Al-wakeel	Omar Abboud	

Table-5: Dedicated reviewers who responded to our review requests

Peer Reviewers			
Ahmed Adel Hasan*	Abdalghani Elsheikh	Ibrahim Fahal	Mohamed Ghnaimat
Abdulla Al-Sayyari*	Ali Abdelsatir	Ibtisam M Ali	Mohammed Elamin Elawad
Babikir G. Kabbalo*	Amin Roshdi Soliman	Issam Francis	Norbert Lamier
Badria Alhermi*	Doaa Yousef	Jaffar Malik	Omar Abboud
Jamal Al-wakeel*	Amin M Hamzi	Lina Assad	Osheik Abuaisa Seidi
Saeed El-Ghamdi*	Hesham Safouh	Mohamed Fouad	Saad Subahi
Ahsene Atik	Hisham Hassan	Mohamed S Alkhalifa	Tareq Suhaimat
Riyad Said	Huda Hamid	Maysson M Osman	Wesam Ismail

* Top six responders.

of the Journal would also increase its visibility and encourage researcher to contribute their work.

There are also some delays in the peer-review process that sometimes prevent us from promptly responding to authors with the final editorial decision regarding their submitted manuscripts. We would like to urge senior ASNRT members to bear with us the tedious task

or reviewing and revising the increasing numbers of submitted manuscripts.

We would also like to invite local renal associations and societies to share the news of local meetings, workshops and other activities with other ASNRT members through AJNT. We are ready to publish announcements of local congresses, courses and seminars on the pages of Journal, free of charge.