

JBCPS in 2021-2022: How The Editorial Board Worked, What Is Done and the Aspirations for Burdensome Works of Manuscript Management

Publication of a research paper is the ultimate outcome of a long way; the results of combined efforts of the researchers, editors, reviewers and the press. After submission of a manuscript to a publication, it becomes the responsibility of the publisher to publish the manuscript as soon as possible and obviously after rigorous scrutiny by experts in the field, both in-house and from outside. Like most journals, the Journal of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (JBCPS) scrutinizes the submitted manuscripts at first by a check-list for the manuscript's fitness to the journal, maintaining the compliance to the instructions to the authors, style of manuscript presentation and other supportive documents like cover letter, approval of ethical review committee and/or consent of patients in appropriate cases. If the submitted manuscript meets initial check-list, then it is sent to the editor-in-chief for comments, especially for the fitness to the journal. Editor-in-chief then sends the manuscript to subject committee for possible selection of at least two reviewers. Reviewers are sent the manuscript, often after prior consent, in a blinded way with a request to send the review comments in a two week period. The comments are then compiled and sent to the corresponding author for revision and return of the revised manuscript in a two week period. The revised manuscript is then checked by editor(s) and if acceptable, discussed in editorial board meetings; generally one of the editorial board members are then given responsibility to edit the accepted manuscript. After editing, the edited manuscript is likely to be sent to the corresponding author for checking any scientific deviation and if the edited copy is acceptable, then, it is sent to press. A galley proof is likely to be sent to corresponding author for a final check. The JBCPS follows most of these steps in majority of cases.

From January 2021 to December 2022, a total of 142 manuscripts were submitted to the JBCPS. A total of 133 articles (73 original research articles, 18 case reports, 17 review articles and rest are other types of articles) were

published in nine issues (including one supplement) of 2021 and 2022. A lot of works were done by the editorial office staffs, editors, reviewers and most importantly the authors, without their cooperation, such huge task was impossible. The reviewers contributed substantially to improvise the quality of the manuscripts. The editors' contributions, which are generally taken for granted, were praiseworthy. The degree of responsibility what the editors had taken throughout the whole process of in-house review, copy editing and publication, is commendable. The support from the administrative authority (executive committee) of BCPS was notable.

The Golden Jubilee Supplement was one of the most remarkable issues of JBCPS in 2022, which comprised of seven invited (commissioned) articles and 14 other research papers and reports. The success history of separation of first ever craniopagus twins in Bangladesh also enriched the issue.¹ One of the commissioned paper identified the top 20 articles published in the journey of JBCPS since inception and was published in golden jubilee supplement of JBCPS² and the corresponding authors of those articles were honoured on a separate occasion later on in the BCPS premises. Other two commendable papers highlighted the contributions of BCPS in health sector of Bangladesh and the evolution of the JBCPS.^{3,4}

The JBCPS has passed 40 years of its publication. It is one of the oldest journals of the country that is very regularly and timely published. However, the review process is time consuming; often it becomes difficult to receive review comments from reviewers. Though the numbers of submitted manuscripts are good, good quality research articles are not common. The JBCPS needs its own web site that will facilitate on-line submission, review process, resubmission and publication. It will encourage authors from other countries to submit manuscripts to the JBCPS. Members from other countries are already included the editorial board. Finding good quality research papers, using good

quality plagiarism checker, receiving timely review reports, receiving revised manuscripts from the corresponding authors and publishing the articles in time are the upcoming endeavors and these also carry some potential challenges. Overcoming these challenges will help for the indexing of the JBCPS to the top rated indexing authorities. The task is tough, no doubt but not unachievable.

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