

Impact Factor 2011 and Random Musings

This communication comes to you at an important juncture in the journey of *Indian Pediatrics*; we are on the verge of starting the 50th year of our publication (1964-2013). And truly, it has been a golden journey as the journal has established itself as the topmost Pediatrics journal of South East Asia and the most widely cited specialty journal of India. The recently released Impact Factor 2011 by Thomson Scientific has brought happy tidings; Indian Pediatrics has now entered the big league with its Impact Factor crossing 1 for the first time. The 40% percent increase (0.75 in 2008, to 1.04 in 2011) within a time span of 4 years is phenomenal, made possible only with the support, blessings, and patronage of 20,000 members of Indian Academy of Pediatrics across the length and breadth of country. The estimated readership of print version is almost 1,00,000 per month and the website hits cross the magic figure of 1 million every month. Alexa.com continues to rank our website as the top pediatric journal website.

The impact of *Indian Pediatrics* on policy and practice in Indian context is evident from its author and reviewer database hailing from more than 40 countries, covering almost all continents on earth (except Antarctica)! The collaboration with Springer has heaped rich dividends both in terms of services to authors and reviewers, increasing the visibility of *Indian Pediatrics* on International front, and also reaping financial benefits for the journal. The growing popularity of *Indian Pediatrics* has led to the number of original submissions rising by 40% from 750 in 2008, to almost 1100 in 2011. Submissions from India accounted for 67% of the submissions and 74% of the accepted articles. In the year 2011, Indian Pediatrics has gone totally online with 100% of the manuscripts being received, peer reviewed and processed through the online manuscript management system. The online manuscript management system has enabled faster review time and transparency of workflow, such as the ability to keep track of the manuscript. In the year 2011, average turnaround time for decision (number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first decision) was only 10.2 days.

Another recent change made is the web-publication of articles, immediately on acceptance, thus providing an early access to readers and researchers. With the

continuing support from editorial board members and reviewers, we have been able to further reduce the publication time of accepted research articles to approximately five months. We had a huge backlog of Case-reports with us, which has now come down significantly, and these are being published within 6 months of acceptance. In order to maintain highest standards of publication ethics besides quality publication, *Indian Pediatrics* is now regularly screening the manuscripts for any plagiarized material, electronically.

The Book *Editors Choice: The Best of Indian Pediatrics for the Practitioners* (A compendium of topical reviews, guidelines and recommendations formulated by the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), its Chapters, Groups, and Committees; and other National bodies) was released in 2010. The total print order was sold out and very well received. In 2011, we also released the much awaited third edition of *Textbook on Pediatric and Neonatal Emergencies*.

One of the major initiatives of the present editorial board was to have a firm plan for capacity-building of young Indian researchers to publish their research work. The workshops on *Art and Science of Writing a Paper* have been gaining ever-increasing popularity. By the time you read this, we would have already completed our 8th workshop in Delhi, having previously conducted it at Bangalore, Kottayam, Pune, and Varanasi; besides the Capital of India. The success of these workshops will only be gauged through increasing publication success of young pediatricians and also, hopefully, by increased submission of high-quality manuscripts to us and other journals.

Be on the lookout for our 50th anniversary Golden Jubilee Commemorative Issue in January 2013. This bumper issue with a new cover is definitely going to be a collectors' item. With editorials from past Editor-in-Chiefs, snippets from past issues, and seminal articles on pediatrics problems in the last 50 years in India, readers are definitely in for a treat. In the Golden Jubilee year, another endeavor of the editorial team will be to put up the Table of Contents of all volumes of Indian Pediatrics online, right from 1964! Links will be provided to their abstracts already available on PubMed.

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