As we approach our 18th year of publication, we are delighted with the continued progress of the Journal. In 2012, we received a total of 183 manuscripts, with a monthly average of 15 and an average rejection rate of 49%. From these, we published a total of 83 articles, totaling 405 pages for the entire volume. Thirty percent of these were original articles. Seventy-three percent of published articles were from the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), with 45% from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), 2% from the Gulf, and 25% from other Arab and EMR countries. The remaining 28% of published articles we received from Canada, China, Greece, India, Italy, Malaysia, and Turkey. Compared with the previous year, we have seen an increase in local submissions from KSA. This includes an increase in active submissions from the Journal's affiliated organizations, the Saudi Association of Neurological Surgery, and the Saudi Epilepsy Society. We encourage all members of these organizations to submit their research for consideration in the Journal. The average time from received to acceptance of original articles was 4 months, and 2.7 months for acceptance to publication. Reasons for rejection included unrelated topics, poor content, not meeting the requirements of the Journal, authors failing to submit revisions and other necessary requirements, and duplicate publication. We are always striving to develop the peer review process to improve the scientific quality of published papers, and in 2012, we changed from a single-blind to a double-blind peer review process. Although this has introduced an extra step in the workflow of the review process, author anonymity promotes our goals of objectivity and fairness. We welcomed Dr. Adel Bokhtor as Statistical Advisor to the Journal in 2012. Dr. Bokhtor is a Professor in Community Medicine from the Department of Family Medicine, Prince Sultan Military Medical City. We are sure that Dr. Bokhtor's meticulous review of manuscripts will help in improving the overall quality of published work. The editorial staff participated in a Short Course for Editors of Medical Journals in February of 2012, conducted by Pippa Smart of PSP Consulting. This was an excellent and informative course, providing valuable information, and ideas for the future of the Journal. There have been many changes in the Editorial Team over the last 12 months. HRH Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz is the new Journal Patron, and we are confident his support will ensure the continued success of the journal. Our Editorial Director, Maj. Gen. Dr. Ketab Al-Otaibi, has recently retired. Maj. Gen. Dr. Al-Otaibi's unwavering support over the years provided the foundations on which this Journal has grown and evolved to the success it is today. Maj. Gen. Dr. Saeed Al-Asmary has taken over this role and is a well-known supporter of research and biomedical publication. Maj. Gen. Dr. Saud Al-Omani completed his term as Editor-In-Chief of the Journal in 2012, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Maj. Gen. Dr. Al-Omani for all of his hard work and dedicated service during this time. Our Editorial Manager, Joyce Elicerio has returned to her home country after working at the Journal for 14 years. We extend our thanks for all of her tireless efforts and accomplishments over the years; she will be greatly missed.

We extend our thanks to the Editorial and Advisory Board Members for their significant contributions to maintaining the standards of the Journal, and we look forward to their important continued role in achieving our goals for 2013. We would like to thank the outgoing Editorial Board members who have now finished their term (Tawfiq Alsadi, Fawzia Bamoghadam, Basmah Binshaig, Mohammed Homoud, and Tarek Jallul) and would like to welcome Fawaz Al-Hussain, Bandar Al Jafen, Salah Almubarak, and Faisal Al-Suwaidan to the Editorial Board. We are honored they have agreed to join the board, and their individual contributions will be of great value to the Journal. We continue the international diversity of members that the current board offers.

In 2013, we are looking forward to a new system, through which authors will be able to submit papers through our new user-friendly web-based manuscript processing system. This system will also include peer-review, editing, publication, and content management, and will facilitate the global indexing of journal content. The introduction of this new system in the coming months will be of benefit to authors, reviewers, readers, researchers, and the journal's editorial staff. Although there will be a period of adjustment in the early stages, we are confident that the long-term benefits of speeding up and streamlining the publication process, and increased dissemination, and exposure through indexing will soon be evident.

We hope all our readers continue to benefit from the published material, and we extend our sincerest thanks to our authors, readers, reviewers, and board members, and wish all a successful year.

Ali AlBarrak
Editor-In-Chief

Sonia Khan
Associate Editor

Mohammed Al-Zawahmah
Associate Editor
Editorial Message

Our thanks also go to the following reviewers, who have participated in the excellent review of manuscripts and books for the year 2012.

*Reviewed 3 or more articles for the year 2012