Two decades ago, professors Saleh M. Al-Deeb, Khalaf Al-Moutaery and Basim Yaqub launched the neurosciences bulletin as the specialized journal in the kingdom and the Arab world due to the growing interest in neurosciences research and publication. The journal started as the official bulletin of the Neurosciences Department, Prince Sultan Military Medical City (PSMMC) as a twice-yearly publication including articles, and abstracts from related meetings. After that, it became a quarterly publication, and continues to be well-respected peer review journal and services its mission as a mean to disseminate accessible, up to date medical information for clinical neurosciences and promote neurosciences research locally and internationally.

With our devoted and hardworking editorial team the journal achieves successful steps and improvements. In 2000, the journal established the journal website which now had 124,813 hits, where readers can view, read and download the articles PDF. In 2006 the journal received an approval for indexing by the Thomson Scientific (formerly known as Thomson ISI) and following that the journal indexed and included in MEDLINE and that the English abstracts will be included using PubMed in July 2010. In 2016, we start including the journal in the Pub Med Central, and increasing the journal visibility in many databases.

After years of dedicated editorship, the journal associate-editors Dr. Sonia khan and Dr. Mohammed Al-Zawahmah left the journal in 2016 after many accomplishments. In this regard, we would like to introduce ourselves to the readers as associate editors of neurosciences journal. Dr. Waleed Khoja is Deputy Director of the Neurology at the PSMMC; founder and past president of Saudi Stroke Association. Dr. Khaled hundallah is pediatric neurology consultant at the PSMMC and assistant professor at Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University.

To set our strategic plan, we decided to involve our target audience. An electronic survey was distributed and posted in the journal website. We received a total of 120 respondents. More than 60% of our respondents spend 2 hours and more weekly reading the medical journal and 65.83% find the journal important in their field. For the journal website, 39.47% of the respondents rate the journal website 3 out of 4. For the journal logo, 55% find out the logo represents the journal. However, improving the journal website, decreasing the processing time and establishing an electronic submission system, and increasing the journal visibility are the key points our audience look for.

To satisfy the needs, demands and the expectations of our target audience the following steps were initiated. To increase the visibility of the journal, we invite all the local societies related to the neurosciences to sign an agreement and the journal will be the official journal of the society. In return, the society will contribute to the development of the journal scientifically. We also focus on the student corner and encourage the students to submit and publish an abstract of their research. The students’ abstracts will be published in the journal website and indexed in the pub med central. In addition to that, e-journal, the journal website, old issues archives, online submissions systems are all areas in our agenda.

As per a local study conducted by Jamjoom during the period 1996-2014 to evaluate the sate of the clinical Neurosciences research in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by determining its world ranking finds out that KSA is ranked 14th in the world and fourth in the middle east on clinical Neurosciences during the period 1996-2014. The study shows that KSA was ranked low in the world. This finding would suggest a strong action to promote research in our region and encourage the neuro clinicians in this field.

In 2016, we received a total number of 135 manuscripts, with an average rejection rate of 37.8%. Reasons for rejection included papers out the scope of...
the journal, of low scientific quality, not meeting the requirements of the journal, authors failing to submit the revisions and other necessary requirements, and duplicate publication. However, over 4 issues of 2016, we published a total number of 70 articles which include: 22 originals, 1 editorials, 9 reviews, 11 case reports, 10 clinical note, 3 brief communications, 2 brief report, 4 correspondences, 1 meeting highlight, and 4 MCQs. The average processing time from received to acceptance was 2.6 (1-6) months and 3.1 (1-9) months from acceptance to publication and we are pleased to decrease the average processing time frame this year.

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 2017. We would like to thank the outgoing Advisory Board member (Saleh Baesa) who had now finished his term and would like to welcome Nader Honjol to the Advisory Board. We also extend our thanks to the outgoing Editorial Board members (Ahmad Khalifa). 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. 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.

References

Our thanks also go to the following reviewers, who have participated in the excellent review of manuscripts and books for the year 2016.

Angela Vincent
Adria Arboix
Adria Arboix
Ahmed H El Beltagi
Ahmed Osman Abdel-Zaher
Ajay Panwar
Alberto Verrotti
Alberto Verrotti
Ali Hassan Rajput
Alim P. Mitha
Annalisa Pastore

Boyd Koffman
Burak Karaaslan

Carlotta Spagnoli
Celia Godfrey
Chetan G K
Christian Brandt
Christian Pagnoux
Christian Urbanek
Clement Darling

Dan Harrison
Danielle Rice

Elena Erro Aguirre
Elena Zapata-Arriaza
Elisa Tamburo
Emiel Cracco
Emilio Perucca
Erling Tronvik
Ernane Torres Uchoa
Ezequiel Uribe

Fabrizio Schifano
Fahad Abdu Bashiri
Fatih Çelikel
Feng Zhang
Flávia de Lima Osório

Gro Solbakken
Hadeel Al Khamees
Häi Zhang
Hermann Stefan

Hiroshi Kataoka
Hiroyuki Kobayashi
Hsiuying Wang
Hung-Yu Chan

Ioannis Karakis

Jaime Gállego Culleré
James Siegler
Jaume Roquer
Javier Pablo Hryb
Jermaine dambi
Jian-min Liu
Jinn-Rung Kuo
José Roberto Wajman
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Jun Zhang
Junshi Wang

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Kenneth Liu
Konark Malhotra

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Luigi Maria Cavallo
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Lynette M. Silva

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Martha Eva Viveros-Sandoval
Martha Shiell
Masahito Mihara
Matias Noll
Matt Isokangas
Meheroz H. Šabadi
Michael Bergin
Michael G. Young
Michael Ssonko
Miguel Angel Palomero Rodríguez
Mirjana Babic Leko
Mohammad Tariq

Mohammed Hasan Bangash
Mohammed Jan
Myoung Soo Kim

Nadia El Kadmiri
Nisa Cem Ören

Oktay Algin
Ove Sonesson

Pasquale Striano
Patricia Rzezak
Puneet Mittal

R. Van den Berg
Raidah Saleem Albaradie
Raúl Pelayo
Rayaz Malik
Richard Bright
Riyadh alokaili
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Rohan.R.Mahale
Roland Thijs

Samir R. Belagaje
Sandeep Tali
Sandra Orozco-Suárez
Sanja Pekovic
Seyed Ali Nabavizadeh
Shanshan Jiang
Slaven Pikija
Sotirios Giannopoulos
Sushil Sharma
Suzannah Iadarola

Tayfun Hakan
Thomas Hays
Tracy Melzer

Wolfgang Herrmann
Wouter Vanderplasschen

YuBao Jiang
Yun Hwang

Zaida Chinchilla-Rodríguez
Zhongheng Zhang