

Ceylon Journal of Medical Science: now and the future

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University of Colombo was ranked as the number one university in Sri Lanka and achieved 1752nd position among 30,000 higher education institutes in the Webometrics Ranking of July 2020¹. Among many attributes responsible for acclaiming this position, the quality and the amount of research it produced annually is one of the direct accolades to this ranking; particularly the volume of web content and the visibility and impact of these web publications.

A journal of a university or a faculty adds much approbation to its prestige and competitive ranking scales such as above. The Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo is proud to hold ownership of the second oldest medical journal in the country, the Ceylon Journal of Medical Science.


Ceylon Journal of Medical Science or CJMS had its birth in 1924 as Section D of the Ceylon Journal of Science which was a publication of the Government of Ceylon. It carried scientific writing related to seven categories, called sections, which were numbered from A to G. Section D related to the field of Medicine. In the year 1942, the administration of the journal was handed over to the then University of Ceylon, the only university at that time. The ownership was based on the key roles played by its academic staff in the journal such as successive roles of editors and section editors. Later on, in the year 1965, it acquired its present name of Ceylon Journal of Medical Science and thence published as a separate journal.

It has reached the 56th volume of publication this year in spite of the intermittent disruptions suffered to the continuity of its publication. The rapid increase of journals from various academic bodies, the cost of printing and distributions took a serious toll on its continuity.

After a 10-year lapse of publication, in 2016 a new Editorial Board took up the challenge of revamping

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this historical journal. With clearly laid down vision and scope, they published the 54th volume as two issues instead of the regular yearly publication with inclusion of a new section dedicated for student publications, and had a relaunch with a new outlook in 2017. In the same year, the senate recognized it as the official journal of the Faculty of Medicine. They worked on instigating a functional status to the CJMS within the repository of Sri Lanka Journals On Line (SLJOL). The Board strived to improve its standards of publications, while maintaining biannual publications. In the year 2018, CJMS was awarded One-Star status by the Journal Publishing Practices and Standards (JPPS) framework. This gave the momentum to improve further on our publication standards, policies and strategies to improve visibility and provide satisfactory peer review and feedback. The team's hard work paid off with the award of Two-Star status out of three by the JPPS in 2019.

As success ignites aspiration, the time is right for CJMS to improve further, strategically, to reach the status of a reputable and a sought-after medical journal in Sri Lanka. The transparent peer review process and standard setting has facilitated a selection of quality research material within the scope of the journal; maintaining a healthy rejection rate. While encouraging the young researchers such as undergraduates to publish their work, the journal has set forum for discussion and expression of opinion. Its future direction needs to invest on greater visibility among the large pool of local researchers both within academic and public health systems including dental, para-medical and other related medical sciences. It needs to expand on the editorial processes with establishment of subeditorial sections, each working hard towards quality, publicity, value and standards. It is important for the journal to obtain recognition in the repository of Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) as marker of internal quality and standards of an online journal and aspire for three-star status of the JPPS.

As we exchange baton as editors, I wish CJMS greater success and many more achievements under its new leadership.

References

1. <https://www.webometrics.info/en/world?page=17>