

Editorial

Iranian Journal of Basic Medical Sciences, 2015 at a glance

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The Iranian Journal of Basic Medical Sciences (IJBMS) is a peer-reviewed, monthly publication by Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (Mashhad, Iran). It is currently indexed in major national and international scientific databases such as Science Citation Index (ISI), PubMed Central, Scopus, EMBASE, BIOSIS Previews (Biological Abstracts), and Chemical Abstracts (CA). An analysis of manuscripts submitted to the journal during 2013–2015 is presented in Figure 1. Examination of this figure shows an increase of 45% in submitted articles during 2015 compared to 2014. In 2015, around 30% of the published articles were from 14 countries including China, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Portugal, Thailand, Tunisia, Jordan, Taiwan, Colombia, Iraq, and Egypt.

The main challenge of the journal in 2015 was manuscript withdrawal by the authors. In some cases, this happened even after the final acceptance of the articles. During the online submission of the articles, we require the authors to declare that they have not submitted their articles simultaneously to other journals. But, occasionally, the authors submit their articles to different journals at the same time without informing the editorial office. This has raised a big ethical issue for the editors of IJBMS.

Another ethical issue is duplicate publication of articles. In some cases, the submitted articles have been published elsewhere prior to submission to IJBMS.

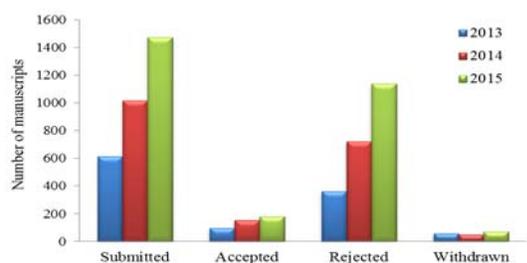


Figure 1. Analysis of manuscripts submitted to Iranian Journal of Basic Medical Sciences in the last three years

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Table 1. Types of articles published by Iranian Journal of Basic Medical Sciences since 2011

Year	Original	Short communication	Review	Letter to editor
2011	65	7	1	0
2012	65	12	4	3
2013	124	15	9	3
2014	133	18	6	2
2015	146	21	9	4

Fortunately, most of these duplications are recognized during the initial check by the editorial office or during the review process. As mentioned, compliance with publication ethics by the authors remains a major issue that needs to be resolved either by training of the researchers or even by establishing a blacklist of the offending authors.

We published between 13 and 16 papers in each issue (an average of 15) in 2015. Table 1 shows the article types published by IJBMS since 2011. IJBMS plans to publish at least one review article per issue in 2016. In 2015, there was an improvement in journal's impact factor from 0.604 to 1.228. A brief comparison of the recent impact factors and international share of articles is presented in Table 2.

IJBMS is committed to publication of high-quality research articles from the researchers of different fields including anatomical sciences, biochemistry, genetics, immunology, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, pharmaceutical sciences, and physiology. We also encourage researchers to submit review articles with reference to their own publications. These manuscripts will also have to be peer reviewed before publication.

Table 2. Impact factor, rejection rate, and international share of the Iranian Journal of Basic Medical Sciences' articles in the last three years

	2013	2014	2015
Impact factor	0.324	0.604	1.228
Rejection rate (%)	60	70.6	77.3
International share (%)	9.3	20	29.4