Editor’s Page

We are pleased to bring you Volume 2 Number 1 (2011) of the Journal of Reproductive and Stem Cell Biotechnology (JRSCB) which we hope you, our readers, will find very useful.

As a new journal we have been asked many questions. One question that stood out was: "What is your rejection rate?" It is a simple question. The plain answer would be: "We are a new journal. We are yet to calculate our rejection rate; and no, we do not publish every manuscript received". While this answer is factual it is obvious the relevance of this question has a portentously mortifying implication and therefore demands an answer worthy of a proper scientific journal.

The JRSCB is striving to be a respectable, freely accessible, journal aspiring to provide useful and accurate scientific information for a worldwide audience. The provision of information free of cost in no way diminishes the quality and the reliability of the information disseminated. Also in our zest to be regular we are not compelled to publish every article submitted. All review articles are, most often, invited. The JRSCB usually select workers with excellent track record or are acclaimed leaders in their areas of specialization, or are well published, or were recommended by an Editor of the journal. We also accept original research contributions from around the globe.

We studied various forms of evaluation for publications and chose one that is anticipated to indicate a particular manuscript is worthy of publication. We devised a checklist based on the suggestions of Roberts et al. How to Review a Manuscript: A “Down-to-Earth Approach”, Acad Pschyiat 28(2):81-87, 2004). (Please see page xiv for a sample checklist). As a rule the paper will initially be read by an Editor following which a decision shall be made to accept or reject the manuscript. Articles deemed as suitable are then sent to referees for peer-review and evaluation. Manuscripts are sent incognito to a minimum of 5 referees. As of November 2011 review articles will be treated likewise.

The incognito or “blinded” manuscript will not carry the name(s) of the authors and their affiliations. The authors have been advised not to give away their identity(-ies) by referring to their place of work in the main text of the manuscript. Thus the referees will not know the identity(-ies) of the author(s). If the referees do not respond within the stipulated time, then the assistance of other referees may be sought.

The referees are requested to respond to the questions in the checklist and indicate the manuscript be accepted or rejected. Reasons for the acceptance or rejection are obligatory. The referees also provide general and specific comments for the author(s) should the paper be deemed suitable for publication but is deficient in some respects so that it can be revised by the author(s) before it is accepted for publication. If plagiarism or fraud be suspected the referees are entailed to substantiate their claims/findings with proof of the alleged misconduct. If misconduct was proven then the manuscript will not be published and the author(s) informed. Adherence to this protocol, oftentimes, results in the evaluation process taking more time, delaying publication of the manuscript and therefore the journal.

We hope that this modus operandi will provide you with useful information that augment your knowledge base leading to better quality of work ultimately resulting in excellent outcome for your patients. We also hope this journal will prove useful to others such as students, research workers, policy makers, and even the lay public.

Jaffar Ali, PhD
Founding/Managing Editor

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