

EDITORIAL

Advancing Excellence in Medical Scholarship: The Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences Strategic Plan for 2028

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INTRODUCTION

The Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences (MJMHS) was established in January 2005 as an initiative originating from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Managed by the faculty and published by UPM Press, MJMHS has grown into a prominent medical journal in Malaysia, attaining Scopus indexing since 2007.

With a focus on original scientific research, emerging issues, and policy analyses within medical, biomedical, and clinical sciences, MJMHS serves as a vital platform for researchers to disseminate their findings to the academic community.

The Strategic Plan 2024-2028 for the Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences, developed by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Universiti Putra Malaysia, lays out a framework aimed at enhancing the culture of high-impact research in medicine and health sciences, thereby improving research outcomes more effectively. The plan outlines three primary objectives: enhancing article quality, increasing journal visibility and impact, and ensuring the sustainability and credibility of the journal.

Despite the numerous changes witnessed since its inception, MJMHS has remained steadfastly committed to its core mission of promoting high-quality research and scholarship in the medical and health sciences.

QUALITY OF THE ARTICLES

The MJMHS is deeply committed to upholding the highest standards in research publication and is steadfast in its mission to enhance the volume of top-tier manuscript submissions. To realise this objective, MJMHS employs a multifaceted approach, engaging in targeted outreach initiatives tailored to specific research communities, fostering collaborations with subject matter experts, and actively working to augment its visibility within the

academic landscape.

Ensuring excellence within both the Editorial Board and reviewer community is paramount to maintaining the scientific integrity of the journal. This necessitates the implementation of industry best practices, ongoing investment in training initiatives for the editorial team, and the consistent recognition of exceptional performance. Moreover, MJMHS is dedicated to fortifying its overall operational efficiency, refining performance metrics, and expanding its indexing capabilities. Such enhancements are poised to bolster visibility, attract a higher calibre of submissions, and bolster the journal's standing within the academic community.

MJMHS's unwavering commitment to advancing medical and health sciences research is further underscored by its aspiration to index in esteemed databases such as the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) and Web of Science (WoS). Achieving this milestone will not only bolster the journal's credibility but also align seamlessly with its overarching mission to disseminate research of the utmost quality.

Outlined within MJMHS's strategic objectives are several key initiatives aimed at elevating the journal's quality and impact. These include a concerted effort to augment the volume of high-quality manuscript submissions, the pursuit of exemplary performance from both the editorial board and reviewers, and a focused endeavour to fortify the journal's operational infrastructure, performance metrics, and indexing capabilities.

Looking ahead to 2028, MJMHS has set forth ambitious targets to further enhance the journal's quality. These include mandates to incorporate at least one external reviewer per manuscript, increase the proportion of international reviewers from Web of Science to constitute 50% of the total reviewer pool, invite distinguished researchers with a SCOPUS h-index of at least 20 to contribute five articles by 2028, appoint 10 international editors to enrich editorial diversity and expertise, and

bolster journal visibility by securing indexing in PubMed by 2025 and WoS by 2028. These strategic imperatives reflect MJMHS's unwavering dedication to excellence and its steadfast commitment to advancing medical and health sciences research on a global scale.

VISIBILITY OF THE JOURNAL'S PRESENCE AND IMPACT

In today's academic sphere, the strategic enhancement of a journal's visibility stands as a critical determinant of its success, leading to increased impact and citation rates. Within the MJMHS, the dedicated Visibility Enhancement Group has meticulously crafted global-local strategies to elevate the journal's discoverability. With steadfast determination, MJMHS aims for international recognition as a leading hub for advancing discovery in medicine and health sciences, guided by an unwavering commitment to excellence, diversity, sustainability, and integrity. Prioritising evidence-based research in medicine and health sciences, the journal makes a significant and indispensable contribution to academia and beyond.

Outlined within MJMHS's strategic objectives are several key initiatives aimed at strengthening the journal's technical infrastructure, enhancing the quality and quantity of published works, improving its digital presence, and intensifying outreach efforts. Looking ahead to 2028, with a specific emphasis on enhancing visibility, the journal has outlined ambitious objectives to achieve notable outcomes.

Firstly, the goal is to establish a fully functional website with embedded analytics, enabling comprehensive tracking of performance metrics. This initiative aims to provide valuable insights into user interactions and support informed decision-making. Secondly, there is a concerted effort to increase MJMHS's Cite score to 0.8, indicative of heightened citation impact and recognition within the scholarly community, signifying increased relevance and influence.

Thirdly, the journal aims to mandate the inclusion of graphical abstracts with all submitted manuscripts, enhancing accessibility and comprehension for readers. Additionally, MJMHS seeks to maintain an active presence on various social media platforms, fostering engagement and facilitating the dissemination of research findings to broaden its impact within the academic community and beyond.

Finally, there is an effort to implement a requirement for all authors to use ORCID IDs during submission processes, facilitating precise attribution and recognition within the scholarly landscape, thereby enhancing transparency in scholarly communication.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE JOURNAL CREDIBILITY

In today's data-centric era, the mandate to uphold the enduring credibility and viability of MJMHS transcends mere academic duty; it forms a fundamental cornerstone for propelling knowledge forward and fostering trust within the scientific realm. These strategic initiatives collectively strive to enhance the journal's stature, facilitate broader dissemination of research findings, and cultivate a lasting acceptance of high-calibre scholarly articles. A pivotal focus in enhancing the journal's influence and academic reach will be on diversifying submissions through targeted roadshows, concurrently aiming to secure inclusion in prestigious databases such as Journal Citation Index (JCR). Moreover, the publication process will undergo refinement through the provision of open-access options, alongside an unwavering commitment to maintaining rigorous editorial standards. Furthermore, there will be a significant emphasis on reinforcing reviewer processes by enhancing the quality of assessments, benchmarking against peer journals, and establishing a reliable database of proficient reviewers.

Embedded within MJMHS's strategic objectives are several key initiatives aimed at fostering sustained growth and excellence: broadening submissions and promoting diversity to encompass a wide spectrum of perspectives and research domains, thereby enriching the scholarly discourse within the journal; upholding rigorous editorial standards to uphold the quality and integrity of published works, ensuring they meet the highest academic standards; and sustaining the rising acceptance rate of articles through robust review processes, fostering an environment conducive to scholarly exchange and collaboration.

Looking ahead to 2028, with a specific emphasis on sustainability, the journal aims to achieve a series of impactful outcomes. These include increasing the submission rate by disseminating one weekly journal-related update across multiple platforms, thereby enhancing engagement and awareness among potential contributors. Additionally, the journal seeks to feature one invited article from an international contributor in each issue, broadening its global perspective and expanding its network of contributors. Efforts will also be directed towards diversifying the editorial board by recruiting members from at least 20 different countries, fostering a multicultural and diverse editorial perspective reflective of the global research landscape. Moreover, there are plans to expand the number of issues to 12 per year or adopt a publish-as-you-go model to accommodate the increased volume of articles and ensure timely dissemination of research findings. Lastly, the journal aims to incorporate ten reviewers from Amal Putra (Retired UPM academicians) into the reviewer pool by 2028, leveraging their wealth of experience

and expertise to enhance the quality and rigour of peer review processes.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Malaysian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences (MJMHS) stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to advancing scholarly research and fostering excellence in the field of medical and health sciences. Guided by its Strategic Plan 2024-2028, MJMHS is poised to further enhance its impact and visibility by focusing on three primary objectives: enhancing article quality, increasing journal visibility and impact, and ensuring sustainability and credibility.

The journal's dedication to excellence is evident in

its commitment to upholding the highest standards in research publication, as reflected in its multifaceted approach to soliciting top-tier manuscript submissions, maintaining stringent editorial standards, and enhancing the quality of reviewer assessments. Furthermore, MJMHS aims to bolster its visibility and impact through initiatives such as the establishment of a fully functional website with embedded analytics, the inclusion of graphical abstracts with all submitted manuscripts, and the expansion of its presence on social media platforms.

Looking towards the future, MJMHS is poised to achieve ambitious targets to further enhance its quality, impact, and sustainability. By broadening submissions, fostering diversity, and embracing emerging technologies, MJMHS aims to remain at the forefront of medical and health sciences research, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and the betterment of society as a whole.