

A new page to the Anatolian Journal of Cardiology

In the management of a scientific journal it is hard not to be on the side of the reviewer, associates, and most importantly of the author. Although decision to accept or reject a manuscript for publication is based on the robustness of the scientific data, and credibility of the outcomes, we are all human beings! Favourable contributions which increase respectability of The Anatolian Journal of Cardiology and its impact factor are the main targets of the Editor-in-Chief. Are there many distractions which deviate the Editor from his/her target? To put in simplest words "Doesn't a somewhat tangible research article about subject which he/she is fond of, and curious about 'seduces' the Editor? Doesn't it misguide the Editor?"

Thanks God, assistants of Editor-in-Chief delicately, seriously, and relentlessly present problems concerning format of the Journal to me. It is very hard to disregard them, we are always coming face to face with them. I don't want to be the object of such questions as "Why did my professor arrive at this conclusion?" even implicitly expressed. Afterwards, Associate Editor, and consultants with their respectable eyes prevent me from crossing the line during evaluation process. What about referees "My Respectable Editor, this manuscript was sent to me lately by the editorial board of another journal, and I rejected. With my deep respect." Don't think that it is a rare coincidence. Another reviewer (referee) might say "This article was published in The Journal of.... two years ago. What do you think to do about it?" (transfer the problem to My Dear Consultant Prof. Dr. Suna Kıraç). When you contemplate all these realities, you surely acknowledge why the struggles around a manuscript are not resolved within one or two weeks. As a matter of fact my wife expresses her concerns about me "You were not working so hard when you were preparing for the position of assistant professorship." Indeed in the year 1970, I was the only cardiologist in the Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine, Ataturk University Faculty of Medicine which was responsible for the health care services of the region extending from Ankara up to the border of Iran. And only patients who could survive were arriving at the hospital.

In conclusion, to the academicians who communicate their criticisms, and reprovals directly or indirectly, first of all make a perfect research plan in collaboration with your mentor to refrain from potential objections. Your manuscript concerning your study should be reinforced with convincing, and robust

evidence, so the referees don't get angry, and use irrefutable expressions as "The title does not reflect the abstract, or a correlation between the hypothesis, and the conclusion does not exist."

The initiative for the above statements stemmed from 4-hour-long breathtaking assembly of my newly assigned Editor, Dear Prof Dr Zeki Öngen, new participants, and associate Editors whom I have been in collaboration with for years during the 30th Turkish Congress of Cardiology with International Participation held in Antalya. Thanks to congress nearly all staff members participated. The only difference from the previous year's congress was that the issue "What about the budget gap of The Journal of Cardiology?" was not on the agenda. It was sold out.

Statistical analysis of yearly publication stream, and its outcomes prepared by the Editor-in-Chief was very interesting. The Journal's impact factor continued to increase, and based on various scorings, position of The Anatolian Journal of Cardiology among all Turkish scientific and medical journals included in SCI-Extended is still maintaining its increasing trend. These outcomes made all the participants very happy, and gave rise to a debate platform which will be very useful for the determination of new year's policy of publication for The Anatolian Journal of Cardiology, Despite the secretary of the third office, and non-stop working from 08:00 AM till 05:00 PM without lunch break, increased stream of papers could hardly be managed. The easiest way is to alleviation of the workload with "in-house" rejection by the Editor-in-Chief. This incurs very heavy responsibility, a serious event just like acceptance of the manuscripts without reviewing by referees. Though we applied all general procedures, our rejection rate exceeds 50 % of original research papers. Rejection rates for submitted case reports, radiological reports, and letters to editor are above 85 percent.

Contents of the letters occasionally written by the authors are very important "Dear Professor, you rejected our manuscript, but you didn't meanwhile give up instructing us. Thanks! In traditional scientific publication Editor-in-Chief, and his/her assistants should not priorly withhold their beneficial or potentially useful contributions from the authors of the manuscripts in order to get increased impact factor scores. This should be a training course. Even if the manuscript is rejected with our comments on correction, and improvement of the manuscript, its chance of acceptance for publication in another journal increas-



es with expense of self-sacrificing endeavours of ours and our reviewers..

General and underlying fundamental topic of the discussions made between our editor, and associate academicians was the issue "What will be future of our scientific knowledge level?" Believe me, problems related to the publication of The Anatolian Journal of Cardiology" became a matter of secondary impor-

tance. And if you don't solve the first problem then as the Turkish idiom says "the mountain labours but gives birth to a mouse" (To the authorities responsible from science policy in Turkey).

Bilgin Timuralp
Editor in Chief
Eskişehir-Turkey

Cover Photos

1.

In 1995, Royal Post Office of the Netherlands issued a commemorative stamp honoring Einthoven as one of the three Dutch Nobel Laureates (courtesy of Frits L. Meijler).

2.

Sir Thomas Lewis

With the development by Einthoven of a practical galvanometer for recording ECGs, considerable interest in electrocardiography followed. The ECG attracted some of the brightest minds interested in the genesis of arrhythmias and spread of excitation.

One of the leaders, if not the leader, during that period was Sir Thomas Lewis. Lewis, successor to Einthoven and Wilson's teacher, made many important contributions to our understanding of mechanisms of arrhythmias and spread of excitation. He did this between the years 1908 to 1920. His contribution was acknowledged by Einthoven who in his Nobel lecture stated, "It is my conviction that the general interest in the ECG would certainly not be so high nowadays if we had to do without his work, and I doubt whether without his valuable contribution I should have the privilege of standing before you today.

Einthoven and Lewis in 1921 in Einthoven laboratory.