

## Changes - New Horizons

As this is the first issue under my editorship, I would like to start by expressing my sincere appreciation to the president and vice-president of TÜBİTAK, namely Professors Yetiş and Büyükdamgacı-Alogan, respectively, for honouring me with this position. I also would like to thank the previous editors, Professors Kansu, Ruacan, Sayek and Yazıcı, for all their efforts in bringing the journal to its position today.

I would like to give some information regarding all the changes both to the structure and to the contents of the journal. These changes have not been made just because the editor has changed; they were all necessary to meet the criteria to be indexed by the most prestigious medical indexes.

### Changes

#### Editorial Board

The previous editorial board consisted of 72 distinguished members: 31 from abroad and 41 from Turkey. I would like to thank all of them for their support. As the members were not equally distributed even among the main branches of medicine, during the selection of the new editorial board I tried to include at least one member from all fields of medicine. However, as you might appreciate, this is not an easy task. Rather than doing that, I have widened the list of referees to cover all areas. The new editorial board consists of 42 members —some from the previous editorial board—and only 14 of them are from other countries. All members have proved themselves as prominent figures in their respective fields through their scientific activities. I am hoping to involve them more in the editorial process than the previous board members were.

#### New publication style

You will notice that, in addition to changes to the board, many other aspects of the journal have changed, including the page structuring, instructions to authors, abstract format, references etc. You will find some information about the journal inside the cover page. The instructions to authors section also appear inside the cover page. The instructions have been changed according to the 'Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals' as explained at [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org). You will also find each articles' indexing information, including the journal abbreviation, year, volume, issue and pages of the article, at the top of its first page. This information also appears throughout the article together with a short running title. Therefore it is very important for all contributors to include a short running title when submitting articles.

The names of the articles published are listed at the back of the journal, with the contents page at the beginning.

Although changes to the cover are also planned, these have been postponed due to previous arrangements.

#### Structured Abstracts

One of the most important changes is the structured abstract format. In keeping with many other journals and the regulations by the ICMJE, it has been decided that starting from June 2006, abstracts of articles should be published in the structured form. The headings of the abstracts should consist of background-aims, materials-methods, results and conclusions. The abstracts should be no more than 250 words. Starting from this issue you will find that we will publish Turkish abstracts as well as the English abstracts. I would be grateful if all authors could take note of these changes. All other information regarding the preparation of manuscripts is explained in the 'instructions for contributors' section. All the changes are shown on the web page as well. Please read them carefully before preparing your manuscript to avoid any delay in its processing.

## Turkish Medical Index (Türk Tıp Dizini)

Although the Turkish Medical Index itself and the Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences (*Turk J Med Sci*) are under the umbrella of the same organisation, TÜBİTAK, the journal was not included in the index because the published articles did not have Turkish abstracts. Starting from this issue, every article with an abstract will also have it written in Turkish. For articles coming from abroad, abstracts will be translated into Turkish. This change I think is very important for a journal being published in Turkey.

## New Horizons

### Indexes

TÜBİTAK is the most prestigious scientific organisation in Turkey and publishes 12 different scientific journals, three of which are included in the SCI. The *Turk J Med Sci* started to be published in 1976 as the DOĞA series and it has been available electronically since 1996. The *Turk J Med Sci* is currently indexed by Excerpta Medica, Biol. Abstr., Chem. Abstr., EMBASE (Online Database), and SCOPUS. Starting with this issue, the *Turk J Med Sci* will be indexed by Index Copernicus as well. In a short time I hope that it will be indexed by Index Medicus as well. The *Turk J Med Sci* also deserves to be in the SCI, like the other three TÜBİTAK journals. Our aim is not only for it to be indexed but also to increase its scientific quality, and so I would like to invite all distinguished members of the medical field in Turkey to submit their studies to our journal. This goal is achievable only if we combine our efforts with yours. Therefore, please consider the *Turk J Med Sci* for all your work, including clinical and experimental studies, short reports, and editorials as one of your first choices. Starting from this issue, reviews will only be accepted by invitation and only from the leading scientists in their field.

Starting from this issue we will accept articles from the medical sciences only. Articles on pharmacy or dental sciences will no longer be accepted due to indexing reasons. However, all articles that have been accepted for publication will of course be published.

### Distribution

Although the *Turk J Med Sci* has been around for a long time, I noticed that it has not been distributed as it should have been. One of the most important targets for me is to distribute our journal to the libraries of every university and every teaching hospital in Turkey. Despite its availability electronically, I believe that the printed copy is still very important to keep the journal within the reach of every investigator. Starting from this issue the journal will be posted to all university libraries, medical schools and teaching hospitals in Turkey.

### Online Journal

Although the *Turk J Med Sci* is currently available electronically, it seems a little difficult to access the journal. We are currently trying to arrange a direct web address for the journal. Most importantly our online accessibility will be further advanced and the journal will start to accept online articles as all necessary procedures are put in place in the near future.

Once again I would like to thank the previous editors and the board members for their efforts to date and would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the new editorial board members for agreeing to participate.

I hope that the *Turk J Med Sci* will become a leading journal in the future and it is obvious that this is only possible with your support.

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