

Singapore Medical Journal at a crossroads

The July 2022 issue of the *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)* marks a turning point in its history. As the official journal of the Singapore Medical Association (SMA), the *SMJ* was first published in March 1960 and started out as a quarterly publication. To better meet the needs of its authors and readers, it became a bimonthly publication in 1980 and has been published monthly since 1997. All these years, the production of the journal has been handled inhouse. However, recent operational and staffing challenges have negatively affected our work processes and the turnaround time for the articles submitted by our esteemed authors. In consultation with and with the support of the SMA Council, the *SMJ* made the decision to partner with a publishing house in order to enhance our operational efficiency.

This issue of the *SMJ* marks the start of our collaboration with Wolters Kluwer Medknow. Wolters Kluwer Medknow is a leading global publishing services provider that provides publishing services to more than 400 medical society journals in over 40 specialties. With the support of a publishing house and access to its dedicated resources, we anticipate that our turnaround time from acceptance to publication will improve. With more resources available, the *SMJ* will also work on enhancing manuscript submission and publishing processes.

This year also marks another first. Clarivate’s Journal Citation Reports™ 2022 have been released recently. We are proud to announce that the *SMJ* continues to make steady progress. In the ‘Medicine, General and Internal’ category, we have moved up in the journal impact factor (IF) rankings from the third to the second quartile. Our latest IF has risen to an all-time high of 3.331, from 1.858 last year [Figure 1].^[1] We note that journal IFs have been heavily influenced by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)-related publications in 2021. In general, the IF rankings of journals that did not focus excessively on COVID-19 research have remained stable. As a general medical journal, it is a cause for celebration that we continue to make steadfast progress.^[2] This is a testament to the quality of submissions by our authors and the efforts of our reviewers.

As we move forward into this new era, the *SMJ* will continue to focus on what matters to our community: the timely publication of quality papers that meet our educational needs and shape our practice. Although most of our manuscripts traditionally come from Singapore, in the last year, we have published papers from more than 30 countries around the world, according to

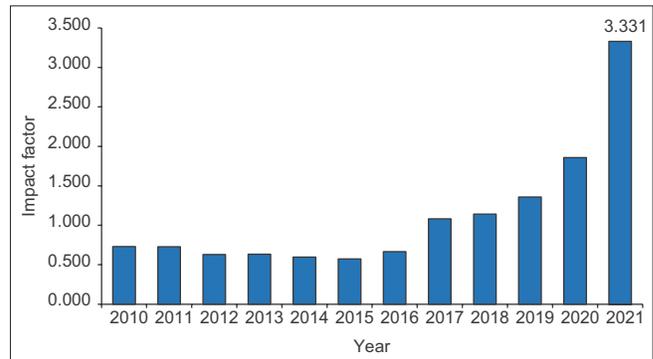


Figure 1: Chart shows the *SMJ*'s impact factor from 2010 to 2021.

the 2022 Clarivate report. We thank you – our readers, authors, reviewers, Editorial Board members and, importantly, our editorial staff – for the continued support.

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| Quick Response Code:  | Website: https://journals.lww.com/SMJ |
| | DOI: 10.4103/0037-5675.354225 |

How to cite this article: Ang TL, Choolani M, Poh KK. *Singapore Medical Journal at a crossroads*. SINGAPORE MED J 2022;63:349.

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