

Editorial

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I am pleased to bring you this third issue of *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* and to record that the journal is now receiving a steady stream of quality original articles. Because we have received a number of enquiries from authors and potential authors regarding indexing by Medline and ISI, I would like to set out our policy in this regard. We view Medline, the leading global electronic database for biomedical journals, as an essential tool for boosting the readership and reputation of the journal in the scientific and medical community and we aim to apply for selection to be indexed in Medline at the earliest opportunity. The selection process is dependent on scope and coverage, quality of content, editorial work and production, readership audience, article type and geographical coverage.¹

Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses is already beginning to demonstrate its proficiency in these areas, with its content ranging from review articles to original research to viewpoints and with its high level of article downloads. Capua and Alexander's review article on avian influenza² and Wood and Robertson's review article on pandemic influenza vaccine preparation³ both appeared in the journal's first issue and have each been downloaded well over 1000 times to date. With the continuation of high levels of readership and high-quality articles appearing in the journal, we are confident that *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* will be ready for selection review by Medline by the end of its first volume. This will include both prospective and retrospective issues of the journal.

We also recognize that having an 'impact factor' is important to authors and readers alike. Thomson Scientific looks for similar criteria as Medline when selecting journals to include in their ISI Web of Science citation database of academic journals, but with more emphasis on the timeliness of publication. The process consists of evaluation of this and many other criteria such as adherence to editorial conventions, bibliographic information, citation history, the journal's content and geographical diversity; if the journal fails to meet this criteria it will not be evaluated for another 2 years. Because of the strict policies in place,⁴ we

do not intend to submit *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* to Thomson Scientific for evaluation until the end of 2008 when the journal has completed its second volume.

Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses has the mechanisms in place to achieve the editorial standards required by both groups. The journal is operating an effective electronic editorial office, Manuscript Central, with a strong editorial board seeing the papers through the peer review process. It also offers authors the chance to track their manuscript from submission to publication via the Author Services website and the opportunity to publish their article Open Access through the OnlineOpen option available. In addition, accepted articles are published OnlineEarly when possible to maximize exposure of the article prior to print publication.

Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses was given a strong presence at the recent Options for the Control of Influenza VI Conference, held from 17 to 23 June in Toronto, Canada. The response to the new journal was overwhelming with 259 people signing up for electronic table of contents alerts and just under 900 sample copies of the journal being taken by delegates. The journal also held its first editorial board meeting at the Options conference, the first opportunity for some of the leading people in the field to discuss the operation and strategic direction of the journal.

References

- 1 US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health *Fact Sheet* MEDLINE® Journal Selection. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/jsel.html> [accessed 14 August 2007].
- 2 Capua I, Alexander DJ. Avian influenza infections in birds – a moving target. *Influenza Other Respir Viruses* 2007;1:11–18.
- 3 Wood JM, Robertson JS. Reference viruses for seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccine preparation. *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses* 2007;1:5–9.
- 4 Thomson Journal Selection Process. <http://scientific.thomson.com/free/essays/selectionofmaterial/journalselection> [accessed 14 August 2007].