

The waiting period

As tradition dictates, the April 2016 issue of AJC includes nine research papers. They were accepted between November 2014 and June 2015. More concretely, it takes 10 to 15 months for a study to go through all the stages of publication, obtain a DOI (digital object identifier) number, be published online, and finally, appear in a printed issue.

How should we evaluate this information? The first evaluation should be made from the perspective of researchers. Since the majority of the academics in our country set promotion as a goal, this is not a problem for them. Researchers do not have any complaints about this point because a paper with a DOI number that is published online may be included in their academic promotion files.

An outsider can evaluate this in two ways. The first evaluation is that this journal has a very low threshold for accepting papers. This is why so many studies are waiting in line to be published. You may comment on this evaluation considering the data I am about to explain. Each study is sent to eight reviewers, at least four of whom are international reviewers, after the evaluation of the chief editor and the other editors. Excluding the year 2015, which includes studies that are still being evaluated, our journal's average rejection rate in the last five years is 60%. The second evaluation of an outsider would be that this journal must be receiving many submissions of research papers. This is actually true since this is the only Turkish cardiology journal that is registered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI). Since 2010, the number of original research submissions has increased by 60 on average every year, and exceeded 450 in 2015. Since we publish nine studies in every issue, and we have a 60% rejection rate, it is clear why it takes so long for studies to be published in print.

How should this situation be interpreted from the viewpoint of editors? This evaluation will be different from both researchers' and outsiders' evaluations. The first thing to do should be to identify our position in this subject. We checked the latest is-

issues of similar journals. We saw that they take between 1 and 6 months to publish a paper, much less time. This indicates that we need to ready papers for publication more quickly.

The length of the publishing process was a topic in the meeting of the board of editors which was done at the Cardio-Spring event on March 5, 2016. The first issue discussed at the meeting was whether our acceptance rates are high or not. However, it was decided at the meeting that there were no problems related to reviewers selection and evaluation periods, and accordingly, the acceptance and rejection rates. Considering the increase in the number of studies being submitted to our journal, the structure of our journal will lead to the fact that the waiting period will continue to get longer in the future. A majority of the participants at the meeting accepted that it is necessary to publish more original research papers in each issue to overcome this situation. Our chief editor has said that economic and technical research will be conducted on this matter.

Scientific journals play a leading role in sharing science and knowledge. These journals make use of current communication facilities as much as possible. The papers that are accepted by journals become available online only a few days after their acceptance, which shows that journals keep up with the speed of communication technologies. However, it is noteworthy that all major medical journals continue to be published in printed form. Above all, being a printed journal is accepted as a sign of prestige, and AJC aims to increase its prestige. Formative aspects are effective in addition to the scientific content. The journals that we look up to regarding the evaluation and publishing process of papers are the leading international journals. Our goal is very high, and rather than demotivating us, this makes us try even harder.

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