

Editorial

Anuradhapura Medical Journal (AMJ): Swimming against the tide.Anjana Silva^{1,2*} and Kosala Weerakoon^{1,2}¹Co-editors-in-chief, Anuradhapura Medical Journal.²Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.**Keywords:** Diamond open-access; academic publishing**Copyright:** © 2022 Silva A, Weerakoon A.  This is an open-access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.*✉ Correspondence: nkanjanasilva@gmail.com,  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9968-3707>**Cite this article as: Silva A, Weerakoon K. Anuradhapura Medical Journal (AMJ): Swimming against the tide. Anuradhapura Medical Journal 2022; 16 (1): 1-2, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/amj.v16i1.7720>**

From this year (2022) onwards, Anuradhapura Medical Journal (AMJ) will publish an additional issue named ‘*Meda*’ (intermediate) between the routine ‘*Maha*’ and ‘*Yala*’ issues, making it a triannual journal. With this, the *Meda*, *Yala* and *Maha* issues will be published in April, August and December, respectively. This expansion of the journal was intended in widening the publishing opportunities for the local medical and health research community. However, can AMJ, a ‘small journal’ with a diamond open access model, specifically catering local research community, survive within the rapidly changing landscape of medical publishing while maintaining the quality and the rigour of academic publishing?

Diamond open-access peer-reviewed journals like AMJ neither do charge authors an article processing fee nor charge the readers an article access fee while allowing the authors to retain copyrights; hence are the open-access journals in the true sense (1). Many of these journals are facilitated by platforms like Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL), funded by various not-for-profit, non-commercial organisations. Therefore, this model provides the best deal for all science stakeholders, especially for researchers from low- and lower-middle-income settings who often have limited funding and opportunities in accessing/sharing science without barriers.

Almost all the medical journals that remain the centre of science charge either the author or the reader. This restricts the accessibility for what is at the mainstream despite their high visibility (1). In reality, diamond open-access publishing is minute compared to corporate publishing models. However, this does not devalue the

importance of ‘small journals’ at the so-called scientific periphery. They play a key role in communicating new knowledge with local and global relevance, primarily supporting the local academic community and young researchers to publish good science (2,3). Now into its 16th volume, AMJ has been doing the same over the years.

Maintaining the quality of science in AMJ is an arduous journey. Submissions with well-described studies having clear presentation and interpretation of data, conforming with the journal formatting and style guidelines, written in quality language are extremely rare. Therefore, the submissions needing editorial support before the peer-review are high, making it an exhaustive job for the editors. In addition, finding experienced peer-reviewers who are willing to spend time on manuscript reviewing while adhering to a timeline of a ‘small journal’ is a daunting task. Managing secretarial, copy-editing and layout tasks by the editors-in-chief and the editorial team themselves, without the support of devoted staff, make it even harder. However, the AMJ editorial board and reviewers have shown that these challenges could be overcome in the name of good science. Over the last two years, we have noticed an increase in good submissions for us, proving the AMJ’s growing repute and wide acceptance among scientists and academia to share their research. To facilitate more of this high demand, we have to rotate our wheels faster. Therefore, despite the rapid expansion of the journal being seemingly unrealistic, we continued to be optimistic and decided to publish the additional issue minimising the waiting times for the authors and readers.

In an era where predatory publishing in the face of ‘open access’ is threatening the advancement of genuine science (4), models like AMJ would be challenging, but

we strongly believe that this is tenable and be a fair field for all irrespective of wealth and fame.

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