

The establishment of New Journal in Resource Limited Setting and Challenges

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“Just big DREAM and achievable idea. Of course, with GOOD and COMMITTED hands.” Prof Aklilu Azazh

Pan African Journal of Emergency Medicine and Critical Care (PAJEC) is a new Open Access and peer-reviewed scholarly international journal based in Ethiopia and lead by Ethiopian Society of Emergency Professionals (ESEP). ESEP is unique society where different stakeholders are members including Physicians (Emergency and critical care physicians, Intensivist, Pediatric emergency medicine subspecialist, and other Emergency interested physicians), nurses (Nurses with BSC and MSC in Emergency and critical care and MSC critical care nursing), and Paramedics (starting from Basic Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) to Msc Paramedic graduates.

In developing nations such as Ethiopia, we have seen that research in the fields of medicine, nursing, and paramedics is not published in international publications. The main reason is lack of funds or budget for conducting and publishing good researches in international reputable journals. (1)

We discussed the aforementioned problems and other topics with our co-workers then decided to launch our own journal. In our first group chat on Telegram, the pioneer in developing emergency medicine in Ethiopia, Prof. Akililu Azazh, gave us the above quote as a reminder that all we need to start the journal is a determined and devoted team.

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The only Journal in Africa which focuses on Emergency is African Journal of Emergency Medicine (AFJEM) with the acceptance rate of 25%. (2) Initially we had a great discussion with AFJEM chief editor Dr. Stevan Brujans about their experience and what we should expect when we start our journal. We had also experience sharing discussion with Ethiopian Journal of Health Science (EJHS) chief editor Prof. Abraham Haileamlak, one of the few well known international indexed journal in Ethiopia. (3)

With an emphasis on submissions from developing nations with special emphasis to African Region, the purpose of PAJEC is to provide a platform for publishing best researches on the emergency and critical care aspects of health care. By publishing articles on a wider range of topics, including pre-hospital, emergency, intensive care, disaster, injury, quality improvement, policy, perspectives, and commentary on emergency and critical care from developing nations and the global community, PAJEC distinguishes itself from other emergency medicine journals in the region.

Our academic journal launching was challenged by issues related with website development, server, budget, submission of articles, editorial team's schedule, and availability of reviewers like other academic journals establishment. (4, 5) Utilizing regional institutions to set up a low-cost, open-access journal system (OJS) website and server with local IT expert adjustments based on our journal guide greatly facilitated our progress. The committed editorial staff created many documents such as the editorial policy, author guide, conflict of interest, privacy statement, and reviewer guide to help the journal with submission, review, and decision-making, as well as other required journal operations.

Even though there is no budget for the editorial team, ESEP takes the lead in promoting, and regulating the journal. We collected pool of

reviewers who have experience in review using Google form from different discipline and. We used social Medias, and other events like conferences to promote the journal. Initially it was baffling, specifically after developing website and started accepting manuscript; the main challenge was very low number of article submission for publication from authors. The reason could be authors prefer indexed journals with high impact factor. (6) Hence, we had to promote and also explain the importance of starting the journal through different social Medias and conferences.

The other problem was that reviewers took longer time to respond and often didn't respond at all to the papers' sent for review. Reminders had to be sent frequently, and if they didn't respond timely, we had to send the document to another reviewer from the pool.

As members of our editorial board and reviewers are from local and worldwide subject specialists, it enabled us in launching the journal and in the near future, expanding its readership. PAJEC's all article submission, review and publication process is completely online and free. The Ethiopian Ministry of Education will register and accredit our journal as we move forward, and our ultimate objective is to have MEDLINE, SCOPUS, and Web of Science index our journal by working together with our strong editorial team, eager writers, and committed reviewers. 7-9

Conflict of Interest

The author declares there is no conflict of interest.

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