

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



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### **These Things Take Time: PubMed indexing update**

Dear Colleagues,

The Medline Review Application Form for The Journal of Plastination was submitted to the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Literature Selection Technical Review Committee on August 14th, 2015. Our Journal was reviewed by the Committee in October 2016, and last November I received a letter from the NLM informing us that unfortunately The Journal of Plastination had not scored highly enough to be recommended for inclusion in MEDLINE.

I requested feedback from the Committee, and received a very helpful document detailing the scoring. Analysis of the scores will be very helpful in driving improvements for our next application. A score of 3.75 out of 5 must be achieved for a journal to be recommended for indexing; ours scored 2.5. Clearly, there is work to be done.

On the positive side, the Journal scored well in the 'Scientific Merit' category for our authors and their institutions, and for our external peer review process. In terms of the 'Importance' of the Journal, we scored 'high' for Researchers, Educators and Students, but only 'moderate' for its importance to clinicians, which is not too surprising, since we make no claims for it being a clinical journal.

One area where we did not score well was in 'Ethics Policies/Statements', as there were no explicit policies on conflicts of interest, human and animal rights, informed consent, or ethics. This has been rectified in this issue, which includes, for the first time, a detailed statement on publication and research ethics. I would urge all contributing authors to read this carefully, as it sets out the ethical standards under which the Journal will continue to operate.

In their comments, the assessors indicated some areas for improvement, including the high rate of acceptance of unsolicited articles, and the fact that many articles have very few references.

It is the aim of the Editor and the Officers of the ISP to address these issues as quickly as possible and re-apply to the NLM for inclusion in Medline/PubMed. Over the coming year we shall be making every effort to raise the standard of the Journal so that our next application is met with more success. The fundamental issue remains, however: without PubMed indexing, we will not attract enough high-quality papers; without high-quality papers, we will not achieve PubMed indexing!

In the meantime, I have attempted to get the journal included in Google Scholar. This has met with mixed, and rather random success. A search for papers published in "Journal of Plastination" yields 25 results (of which some are citations) and includes papers from both the Journal of Plastination and its earlier incarnation, the J Int Soc

Plastination. At this stage it is obviously far from complete, but it's a start.

I shall be giving further updates in forthcoming issues of The Journal of Plastination. Until then, it is of the utmost importance for the future of the Journal that we continue to publish high quality, peer-reviewed research papers and reviews, and I would urge all readers of the Journal to consider submitting their research to The Journal of Plastination. Instructions for Authors are included at the end of this issue.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip J Addis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philip J Addis

Editor-in-Chief