

Journal of Ophthalmic and Vision Research: The Journey So Far

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On the occasion of the New Year and the 14th year of publication of *Journal of Ophthalmic and Vision Research (JOVR)*, I take the opportunity to wish our readers, contributing authors, reviewers, editors and journal staff a very happy new year filled with health and prosperity. I extend my sincere gratitude to all of you who made the journal a successful venture. Without your contribution and ongoing support, we would never have been able to reach our current status.

We are proud of our achievements. *JOVR* is now indexed with Web of Science (Emerging Sources Citation Index), PubMed Central, Scopus, Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (IMEMR) and a number of other databases. Scimago Journal Ranking shows a rapidly rising curve for citations to *JOVR* articles, especially since 2011.^[1] The journal's Scientific Journal Rankings (SJR) index has increased from 0.127 to 0.727 and *JOVR* currently ranks second among ophthalmology journals originating from the Middle East and North Africa region, and holds a global rank of 46 among all ophthalmology journals.^[2]

JOVR is the first English language ophthalmology journal in our country and was launched in 2006 under the name "Iranian Journal of Ophthalmic Research" by Dr. Hamid Ahmadiéh as the founder and Editor-in-Chief. This peer-reviewed, open-access journal serves as the official publication of the Ophthalmic Research Center affiliated to Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. The journal was initially published twice a year and the scope included not only clinical ophthalmology, but also basic science disciplines related to vision. This scope reflects the initial intentions of the journal's founder.

In the first two years of its establishment, the journal received considerable input from local and international authors in both basic science and clinical fields;

accordingly, in 2008 the journal was renamed as "Journal of Ophthalmic and Vision Research (JOVR)" to better reflect its international diversity and multidisciplinary orientation. At the same time the frequency of publication was increased and *JOVR* became a quarterly journal. *JOVR* has been published by Wolters Kluwer / Medknow since 2014.^[3]

On the tenth anniversary of the journal in 2016, Dr. Shahin Yazdani was designated as the Editor-in-Chief while Dr. Hamid Ahmadiéh continues to serve the journal as the Senior Editor. The growing rate of submissions and collaboration by a wide range of researchers also resulted in evolution of the editorial board and assignment of new roles. In addition to the Senior Editor and Editor-in-Chief, five Associate Editors share the journal responsibility in five major fields including basic science and translational research, anterior segment, glaucoma, posterior segment, and pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, while 37 section editors are in charge of 15 sections of the journal including translational eye research, cornea and ocular surface, lens and cataract, glaucoma, retinal and retinal cell biology, uveitis, ocular oncology and pathology, neuro-ophthalmology, pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery and ophthalmic epidemiology. We also have the privilege of 37 distinguished members on the Editorial Board and Advisory Committee spanning a variety of countries from Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East.^[3]

Our experience with *JOVR* was truly rewarding, and despite all the obstacles and hard times we continue to grow. We believe that knowledge is not and cannot be restricted by any boundary. We intend to continue improving the journal and reaching a wider audience; our long term plan is to maintain our open access policy while focusing on publication of high quality

research. At the same time, we aim to further increase journal diversity in terms of content and authorship. Our vision is to rise to the top 20 ophthalmology journals in the next few years and serve as a forum for multidisciplinary dialogue for ophthalmology and vision science.

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