

Cover letter to reapply to Scopus

August 23, 2024

Sun Huh, Editor-in-chief, *Ewha Medical Journal*

Ewha Medical Journal received the following comment regarding its previous application to Scopus:

The title has a good online accessibility, however fails to fulfill other requirements for inclusion in the international database Scopus for the following reasons: Title is hardly cited in Scopus; No international diversity among authors; No international diversity among editors.

This comment provided valuable insights into how to upgrade the journal to an international level. I value the advice provided by the Scopus CSAB members. Below are the responses:

1. The title is hardly cited in Scopus

I rechecked the citation frequency using the Scopus database with the following search terms on August 24, 2024:

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REFSRCTITLE("Ewha Medical Journal") OR REFSRCTITLE("Ewha Med J")
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The number of total cites in each year is as follows:

32 in August 2024; 28 in 2023; 31 in 2022; 27 in 2021; 33 in 2020, 25 in 2019; 16 in 2018; 9 in 2017; 12 in 2016; 3 in 2015; 5 in 2014.

Until 2018, the number of citations in Scopus-indexed journals was negligible. However, these data

indicate a consistent increase in the total number of citations for *Enba Medical Journal*. Additionally, the total number of citations in 2024 is expected to exceed 50 by the end of this year.

The majority of authors citing documents have affiliations in Korea, accounting for 54.3% of the total (126 out of 232). Despite being a bilingual Korean/English publication, *Enba Medical Journal* has received citations from 41 other countries, comprising 45.7% of the total. For instance, the United States contributed 16 citations, India 15, China 13, and Australia, Iran, and Iraq each contributed 9. Up until 2021, the journal predominantly featured Korean articles. The annual publication volume has been relatively low, with 28 articles in 2022, 26 in 2021, 12 in 2020, 10 in 2019, and 13 in 2018. Although the citation metrics for *Enba Medical Journal* still require improvement, they may be comparable to those of other local general medicine journals.

2. No international diversity among authors

Enba Medical Journal is a local journal that deals with topics of local interest. However, it also welcomes submissions from researchers worldwide. The countries of authors' affiliations from 2023 to the July 2024 issue are as follows: Korea (predominant), Indonesia, China, Turkey, Iran, and Bulgaria. Furthermore, the journal has published translated articles, the authors of which were from the United Kingdom, the USA, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark.

The journal still needs more diversity in the countries of authors' affiliations. However, substantial changes have recently been made in the journal's management, and the international diversity among authors will soon broaden.

3. No international diversity among editors

Editors from outside Korea have been invited: one from the USA and two from Australia. In light

of the increasing number of authors from outside Korea who have recently started submitting their manuscripts to *Ewha Medical Journal*, more editors from these countries will be invited soon.

The above responses may help explain the editorial board members' voluntary work to enhance the journal. Since I was invited to serve as the editor-in-chief last September, I will need more time to increase the journal's citations. However, the number of citations is expected to grow sharply in the near future because *Ewha Medical Journal* has published articles on recent hot topics in Korea since October 2023, and those articles have mainly been published in English. The number of submissions has also increased dramatically since the publication of those articles.

Ewha Medical Journal has a regional scope mainly focusing on Korea; therefore, the international diversity of authors and editors has been limited. However, with a recent increase in submissions from outside Korea, the journal is set to expand its international diversity. Since the October issue of last year, the Ewha Medical Journal has published 72 articles up to July issue of 2024, and addressed unique topics such as gender equity, translated guidelines and protocols, and conflicts between the Korean government and physicians. The new editor's mission and goals are outlined in an editorial available at <https://doi.org/10.12771/emj.2023.e9>.

The management team and I have diligently worked to uphold the scientific quality consistently since the October 2023 issue. In particular, we have implemented the following steps: 1) The aims and study design have been clearly described in separate headings, and we have also checked to ensure that the conclusion aligns with the stated aims; 2) the Methods sections have been arranged more specifically according to the corresponding reporting guidelines, and the research data of some articles were provided to enable reproducibility to the extent possible; 3) most original articles, case reports, and systematic review have been described according to the corresponding reporting guidelines, including STROBE, COREQ, CARE, and PRISMA statements; 4) professional English

proofreading has been provided for all articles to ensure readability and clarity; 5) conflict of interest statements have been added to all articles; 6) if editorial board members are authors, the potential for bias/conflicts of interest during the review process has been stated clearly in alignment with our publication policies; 7) and the journal's bibliographic data have been consistently revised to avoid misunderstanding.

Therefore, we are confident that *Emba Medical Journal* will be able to enrich the Scopus database with its coverage of unique topics in Korea and beyond.