

Does the World Need a New Journal?

Over the past century, we have witnessed the rapid industrialization of the world. This process has revolutionized our lives and with it has come new and cheaper products, higher life standards and wealth, but not necessarily health. The development has been associated with increased incidence of certain occupational diseases and has influenced the environment too. Very soon, we learned that the “mother earth” is not as strong as we thought and that over the past century, we have really destroyed it carelessly with our wastes, our poisons, and our own numbers. Then, the need for occupational and environmental medicine was felt more seriously and research on this field has proceeded at a higher pace.

This part of the world was not an exception and over the past decades much research on occupational and environmental medicine has been conducted in this region. With plentiful supplies of oil, most of the world refinery factories are in our territory. Many occupations in this region are done in ways completely different from those performed elsewhere—if one can find an equivalent for them at all. No surprise, physicians practicing medicine here face conditions far different from those encountered by practitioners in western communities. Not to mention the global environmental crisis, or the global climate change, that affects us all, many environmental health problems have originated from regional causes and should be solved in their own context which strongly depends on local culture, habits, and religious beliefs, among other things. All these dualities make a strong argument to publish a new journal to present our own somewhat different research findings, particularly in a region where no such a journal publishes. That’s why the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Health Organization which is responsible for the health of the employees of a 100-year-old industry in Iran, decided to launch *The International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (IJOEM)* to provide an international forum for communication of scientists interested in the field worldwide.

But, though the argument might be reasonable at first glance, honestly, I think that is not enough for believing that the world might need our Journal; presenting something new is not adequate. I think the world needs a new journal, only if it is going to be a quality one.

We are going to publish a quality journal, and we can. This prediction is not by virtue of any strength or cleverness on my part, but because “I am standing on the shoulders of giants.” A remarkable international Editorial Board has accepted to support *The IJOEM*. Most of them are among the most prestigious figures in their field of research. Isn’t that sufficient to publish a quality journal?

An African proverb says “if you want to go quick, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.” We want to go far, but quickly. Even such an eminent Editorial Board will be powerless to shape and strengthen this Journal without receiving the best articles from you. But we still have faith in this Journal, since we trust you to meet that challenge too.

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