

EDITORIAL

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20 Years from the Establishment of Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

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Establishment of the Journal

Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (IJAAI) was founded 20 years ago. It was the vision of the founder (Prof. Mostafa Moin) to provide its readers with the highest quality materials published through a process of careful peer reviews and editorial comments. It was challenging to establish an International English journal in a rather new field in a country where English was the second language. Through the years, the endeavors made by the chairman, Editor-in-chief, editorial board and executive board and all the readers, authors and reviewers made it possible to have a prestigious internationally accepted and indexed journal which publishes high-quality scientific papers. This bimonthly published journal brought scientific visibility not only for Immunology as a recent medical sub-specialty but also for scientific accomplishments of hard-working researchers from all over the world mainly Asian and Middle-Eastern and publicized them in the global scale.

Facts and Figures

IJAAI was the first specialized journal published in English in the field of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology in Iran. The journal was established in the year 2000 and is now indexed in 15 internationally-accepted databases. Prof. Mohamad Bagher Eslami

was the first Editor-in-Chief for 17 years and Prof. Shahnaz Rafiei Tehrani has been the Editor-in-Chief since 2017. The journal has published more than 800 papers in 18 volumes and 92 (regular and special) issues in Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and Medical Ethics. Besides publishing, the journal has held annual workshops for reviewers and authors and has always appreciated the reviewers by annual appreciation ceremonies and prizes for the best reviewers. The journal received First-degree Scientific Research Prize in the year 2009 in Publication of Medical Sciences in Iran and the second place in Medical Research Razi Festival in the year 2010.

Chairman

Dr. Mostafa Moin

I would like to express my gratitude for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the journal's founding in partnership with the Iranian Society of Asthma and Allergy (ISAA), Immunology, Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (IAARI) and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). The journal was created with the aim of publishing the results of scientific researches on allergy, asthma and immunology in Iran and the world, encouraging authors and researchers to publish their work in this peer-reviewed journal as well as strengthening scientific resources in these fields. The 20th Anniversary would be a golden opportunity to re-evaluate the initial motivations and goals of the journal, to take a look at the challenges and gradual evolution thus far, to make more attempts to increase scientific visibility¹ in ever-

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expanding communications era and to improve the scientific quality of the papers. In addition, it would help the journal to make more interaction with the professors, reviewers, researchers, and students which assist the health system policymakers in promoting basic and clinical aspects of immunology, asthma and allergy. I have special thanks to the late Professor Abolhassan Farhoudi², as one of the main founders of this journal, the pioneering editor-in-chief, prof. Mohammad Bagher Eslami, other members of the editorial board, reviewers, authors as well as the journal's staff.

Editors-in-chief

Dr. Mohammad Bagher Eslami

I am very happy to be a member of a team eagerly working to promote and publish an immunology journal. Admittedly, twenty years of regular and uninterrupted publication of Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology is an achievement which calls for a celebration. This journal is now indexed in major international databases and receives scientific articles from many academic departments in particular from Asian countries. Although lots of authors are non-native speakers of English, but small numbers of submitted articles require major corrections in their texts. Indeed, I enjoy reading articles which are submitted to our journal because they often contain new findings and interesting topics which are not found in the textbooks.

Dr. Shahnaz Rafiei Tehrani

As a doctor and the first Iranian woman to become a professor in the field of immunology, it was the best opportunity for me to be a member of editorial board of the IJAAI. Due to the health issues of Dr. Eslami, although he still helps to evaluate some manuscripts, I accepted the responsibilities as the Editor-in-chief of the journal. According to my experience, initial screening of the manuscripts in terms of novelty of subjects and affiliations of authors is the principle part of my duties. Afterwards, we aim to select the right reviewers for the best evaluation results. The more journal publishes scope-oriented papers with the help of qualified peer reviewers, the more satisfied readers we have. This helps the journal to increase the visibility among the scientists and subsequently promotes the impact factor. Another important part of the journal's management is to encourage the authors to revise the

manuscript in a detailed manner. Moreover, the papers can be criticized in a post-publication evaluation manner and the comments and responses to the comments will be published as a Letter to the editor. Confidently, I think that we can take the steps of success forward easily and quickly with the effective collaboration of all authors, reviewers, editors and our potential talented staff in journal's office.

Managing editors:

Dr Katayoon Bidad

When I first started to work in an Immunology Center, I got to know IJAAI. I soon understood that there is a tough reviewing process in the journal and sometimes it is more difficult to publish in this journal whose office happened to be downstairs compared to other international journals. After a few years, I was invited to work as the Managing Editor of the journal. I just learnt a lot there. Prof Moin was the person who had big dreams about the journal and I knew they were all becoming reality. I loved to be part of this growing scientific effort. I soon understood that quality is the value we cannot compromise, and publishing is not our only mission. We were trying hard to record researches performed in our extended geographical area, but we had to educate our authors about writing their papers. We had to review the papers and this required training professional reviewers and appreciating their valuable time devoted voluntarily to advance immunology in our country and region. We aimed to give the medical community up-to-date immunological data and prioritize researches that help patients more.

Dr Maryam Nourizadeh

I joined the journal at a time when it had overcome the difficulties in initial establishment. The journal was already reputable among the researchers and had a bank of committed reviewers. In fact, I took over the responsibility from previous managing editors (Dr. Mazdak Ganjalikhani Hakemi, Dr. Nima Rezaei, Dr. Ali Rafati and Dr. Katayoon Bidad) and I had a serious concern to continue the outstanding achievements as much as possible. I learned a lot during these years and enjoyed the teamwork with the journal's committed and expert assistants (Maryam Anvari and Aylin Mardanpour). Moreover, I practiced to be patient especially when some articles were like a ping-pong game between the authors and the editors and even the referees. Many authors were finally happy

with their manuscript improved a lot after all those careful evaluations. In addition, bimonthly editorial committee meetings and Biennial Editorial Board meetings during the past 20 years have significantly helped the journal's scientific progress.

Finally, we'd like to sincerely thank all the authors, reviewers and readers of the journal for their trust in our work. We are proud to be a part of this growing effort and we believe that our hard work flourishes more and more in the coming years. May the year 2020 be a year full of hope and big scientific achievements for the immunology society.

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