Online First Publication

Since its founding in 1988, *Medical Principles and Practice* (MPP) has been published by S. Karger, Medical and Scientific Publishers, based in Basel, Switzerland. In 1890 when Samuel Karger founded the publishing house, he realized the potential of specialized medical journals and the firm attracted articles authored by some of the most distinguished scientists of that era. Today, MPP is one of the 80 specialized medical journals that S. Karger publishes. After the brief hiatus of the Gulf War precipitated by the Iraqi invasion, the journal resumed publishing and has continuously pursued its objective to distinguish itself as an internationally recognized medium for the dissemination and exchange of knowledge in the field of health sciences. In 2002, the journal was first indexed in Medline and Index Medicus. To accommodate the growing number of publishable manuscripts received, in 2004 the number of issues per volume was increased from 4 to 6 and printed pages per issue from 54 to 80. Currently, the number of printed pages per issue is 96. Recently, the journal has made efforts to adapt to technological innovations by transitioning from a completely print environment to a hybrid print and online model. As a result of implementing online limited open access, in 2008 the journal expe-

rienced a 1,500% spike in online hits, which led to a 41% increase in the impact factor from 0.583 to 0.824 in 2009. The trend continued in 2010, with the impact factor again substantially improving from 0.824 to 1.069, a 29.73% increase. To provide a user-friendly, streamlined experience, MPP adopted a system recommended by our publisher, XpressTrack Smartware for Journals, to provide online submission and a totally networked online solution for authors, reviewers, and the editorial staff. This online environment provides ease of use, timely feedback and substantially reduces the interval from submission to publication. Working with our publisher, S. Karger, effective October 20, 2011, all accepted manuscripts are being published online before the print edition, using a DOI (digital object identifier) for citation. MPP recognizes the need to keep pace with technological innovations and their application to research and publishing. MPP's endeavor to implement the latest technologies in the service of research is but one example among many of Kuwait University's commitment to research and international recognition through the excellence of its programs.

Azu Owunwanne
Editor-in-Chief