New beginnings for The Radiographer

We continue to implement strategies to improve the status of The Radiographer. These strategies are aimed to meet the needs of the readers and for authors to consider The Radiographer as the journal of choice with which to publish.

The Radiographer welcomes nuclear medicine papers

The Radiographer now considers for publication all clinical and technical aspects of medical radiation sciences – radiography, radiation therapy and nuclear medicine. The Radiographer continues to publish relevant professional issues, education and research.

In practice and in research, nuclear medicine technologists work and collaborate with radiographers and radiation therapists. It is for this reason, that The Radiographer now welcomes the publication of nuclear medicine related topics.

Four issues per year

The Radiographer increased the number of issues published per year to four. They are published in March, June, September and December. One of the issues could be a supplementary issue.

New journal design

The Radiographer finally had a much needed facelift. Bill Minnis, the publisher and his creative team have produced a new look that reflects the current global journal designs.

I hope you agree that the simplicity of the new print layout and typography greatly improves the readability of the journal. The type of paper (such as original research) is clearly visible and the author details are in a separate column making it easier to find at first glance.

The new front cover of a flowing stream of light implies a continuing change. It reflects the advancement in technology and enhanced patient care in medical radiation sciences.

Inclusion to relevant medical databases

Having an open access journal is only the beginning. The Radiographer will be included in relevant medical databases. It is hoped that this will occur in 2011.

Resources for authors and peer reviewers

In the Australian Institute of Radiography website, http://www.air.asn.au/theradio.php web links have been made available directing authors and peer reviewers to relevant websites on reporting guidelines, scientific writing, publications and research ethics. Before submitting in The Radiographer, use the appropriate reporting guideline that matches your study design and check that all of the essential items under each heading – Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion are included in your manuscript.

It is expected that many more strategies will be implemented. To ensure that you continue to be proud of your journal and will remain relevant in meeting your professional needs, I encourage you to contact the Editor to suggest themes of issues or topics that could be published. The Editorial Review Board will search and invite experts to write reviews or commentary papers. The scientific standard of these invited papers will remain to be high as they will still undergo a double blind peer review.

I hope you like where your journal is heading. I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Cherry Agustin
Editor in Chief
email: editor_radiographer@air.asn.au

Medical editors are experts in their own professional field but often may not have had formal training in publishing. Also, like most skills and knowledge, editorial skills become redundant over time. It is therefore essential that editors receive the training required to survive in the changing and competitive world of medical publications.

Short course for editors of medical journals has been held yearly since 1996 in different countries in Europe, North America and Australasia. The course “looks at the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to run a successful publication” (www.pspconsulting.org). The editor in chief of The Radiographer was fortunate to have been given the opportunity to attend this essential course for new editors from 10th–12th November 2010 in Oxford UK.

Course facilitators

The facilitators, Ms Pippa Smart and Dr Domhnall Macauley have an abundance of experience in medical publications. Ms Pippa Smart has 20 years of experience in research and academic publications. She has a consulting firm that provides advice to publishers and editorial groups in developing their journal. Dr Domhnall Macauley is the Clinical Editor (Primary Care) with the British Medical Journal (BMJ). He was editor of British Journal of Sports Medicine prior to his appointment in BMJ. The course is endorsed by the BMJ and Wiley-Blackwell publishing groups. Hence, editors from these groups are encouraged to attend.

Class of 2010

The 25 participants were editors of specialist medical journals from various countries including the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, USA and Kenya.

Programme

The course highlighted the current evidence in journal management, peer review, features of a good quality journal, readership and scientific writing. The programme was designed to allow participants the opportunity to share their experiences.

Small groups were given many case studies to discuss, suggest solutions and solve the presented problem. The discussed topics were grouped into four categories: (1) The Owners, (2) The Authors (3) The Readers and (4) The Public. Below is a brief summary of each category.

The Owners: Ownership models, Publishing models and open access, Role of the publisher, Role of the editor.

The Authors: Setting up a copy flow system, Reviewing systems (and attracting and rewarding reviewers), Attracting and keeping good authors.

The Readers: Needs of the readers, Design and structure of the journal (both print and online), Readability.


Acknowledgement

Thank you to the Board of Directors of the Australian Institute of Radiography for supporting my professional development needs and for their commitment to improving the quality of The Radiographer.