



Pan African Urological Surgeons' Association

African Journal of Urology

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Editorial

African Journal of Urology: Continuing progress



The African Journal of Urology was first published in 1995 as the official journal of the PAUSA, through Springer Verlag Paris as three issues per year; and then since 2000 it has been coming out every 3 months (four issues/year). Due thanks are given to Mrs. Sybil Storz who supported the journal since its first issue and over the past 18 years.

Recent important developments for the journal have taken place in 2012–2013 including a change of publisher to Elsevier, the adoption of an online electronic submission system (EES), the availability of published articles on ScienceDirect, one of the largest databases of medical journals worldwide, the launch of a new website (www.afjuurology.net), and most significantly the indexing of the journal in SCOPUS (one of the leading search tools for scientific research).

The goals of the AFJU remain to promote publication of studies relevant to Africa and to assist in the transfer of knowledge among African urologists and international urologists and experts. Publishing in the AFJU entails many advantages such as the availability of articles in an open access peer-reviewed journal, with no fees or charges (no page or figure charges), bilingual (English/French) publication, with easy online submission, special emphasis on African problems, and being indexed in SCOPUS with wide accessibility. These elements combine to facilitate publication and increase the availability of published research to a wide audience and consequently to enhance the citations and bibliometrics of authors and research groups.

The journal is currently enjoying an increasing online readership, with a very good reception to some articles such as the special issue

Table 1 Total submissions to EES in 2012.

Editor decision term	Total decisions	Frequency of decision (%)	Average time to decision
Accept	7	12.1	35.3
Reject	15	25.9	44.5
Reject – out of scope	3	5.2	12.3
Reject and resubmit	1	1.7	0
Revise	32	55.2	34.9
Total editor decisions	58	100	35.7

on female genital mutilation (issue 19-3) which was recommended by a number of Urologic institutions including the Société Internationale d’Urologie (SIU). The journal submissions in 2012 were a total of 175 articles (rejection rate: 26.9%; average time to decision; 35.7 days) reaching 195 in the first three quarters of 2013 (rejection rate: 40.9%) (Tables 1 and 2).

The workflow of submitted articles starts with an initial technical check by the editorial office, followed by a plagiarism check through a renowned plagiarism check service provider. The article is then assessed by the editorial board and sent to a minimum of two blinded international reviewers. Based on the reviewers’ comments an editorial decision is reached. Some articles would undergo additional evaluation by specialized reviewers (e.g. statistics or pathology) or an additional language check. To improve their chances of getting published, Urologists from Africa are welcome to submit their work

Peer review under responsibility of Pan African Urological Surgeons’ Association.



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Table 2 Total submissions to EES in 2013 (Jan–Sep).

Editor decision term	Total decisions	Frequency of decision (%)
Accept	44	28.5
Reject	63	40.9
Reject – out of scope	2	1.3
Reject and resubmit	0	1.7
Revise	45	29.2
Total editor decisions	154	100

after making sure plagiarism is avoided and articles are edited for linguistic errors.

The PAUSA meeting was a great opportunity to share with members and attendees their views regarding the AFJU and its development. It was also a chance for reviewers, editors, authors and potential authors to meet on a personal basis and discuss their comments and wishes for the journal. The journal is thankful to the PAUSA board, the editorial board and the dedicated reviewers for their continued support.

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