

## Editorial

### Publishing with ScholarOne Manuscripts

*Jean Bosco Gahutu*

**Ag. Editor in Chief and Deputy Editor**

The publishing and editorial processes have undergone tremendous changes over the last decades, based on fast progress in information and communication technology. Before the computer and internet era, authors submitted their manuscripts in typewritten form, with strict rules of formatting the text, the tables and the figures. Technical and artistic skills were required to draw the figures, while maintaining high level of accuracy in the representation of data. Since the nineties, due to widespread use of the computer and internet, manuscript submission has been done by emails in which the manuscript and related documents are sent as attachments. The communication between the editorial team and the authors is also done by email. Since the beginning of the millennium, an increasing number of scientific journals use web-based communication platforms for manuscript submission and review. The result is a tremendous improvement in the speed of the submission process, the assignment of manuscripts to reviewers, the reviewers' reporting time and the communication of the editorial decision to authors. The outcome is that the time between the submission of the manuscript and its online or print publication has been tremendously reduced. The rapidity of the publishing process is a key factor in the utilization of research results. Research findings may have immediate implication on clinical practice, as is the case for new drugs for which efficacy and safety are proven and which may rapidly be used depending on the severity of the health problem that is addressed. Another example is the inefficacy or the toxicity of a drug, which if demonstrated by research, can result in its rapid withdrawal from the market. Rapid publication processes therefore ensures that the research findings are beneficial to the population in a timely manner.

ScholarOne Manuscripts is a web-based communication platform designed by Clarivate Analytics (former Thomson Reuters) for the submission of manuscripts and the peer review, production and publication processes. It is widely used by scientific journal publishers, including medical journals in developing countries. ScholarOne management systems offer advantages of automation and ensure high level of workflow as compared to the email system. The web-based submission and peer review process, as done notably with ScholarOne Manuscripts, is considered to reduce publication errors, e.g., reference errors (O'Connor et al., 2013). It enables to carry out retrospective studies on the submission, peer review and publication processes (Wyness, McGhee, & Patel, 2009).

Through its membership to the African Journal Partnership Project (AJPP), Rwanda Journal Series F: Medicine and Health Sciences (RJMHS) started to use ScholarOne Manuscripts in February 2017. Manuscripts submission and peer review are now done via this platform. It is proving to be a great improvement in terms of timeliness, thanks to the AJPP for their generous support to enable the RJMHS to enjoy the service provided by ScholarOne Manuscripts. We look forward to the authors using this platform and benefiting from a rapid service from the Journal's editorial team.

### References

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