

Periodicals in Health Sciences from Saudi Arabia: an overview

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Abstract

There are currently several peer-reviewed journals in health sciences published from Saudi Arabia. New ones are also added by time. These are important source of continuous medical education. All of them are published in English language. The frequency of publication of these journal ranges from biannually to monthly publication. They cover many fields in health sciences. Professional societies played a major role in the establishment of these journals. The journals process the submissions electronically and many of these journals are indexed in the international databases such as MEDLINE. There is a potential for these periodicals to utilize technologies in the interest of authors and readers. Smart phones applications for these periodicals might be available in the near future.

Key words: Journal, periodicals, Saudi Arabia.

{**Citation:** Fahad Al Aboud, Daifullah Al Aboud. Periodicals in Health Sciences from Saudi Arabia: an overview. American Journal of Research Communication, 2015, 3(9): 11-17} www.usa-journals.com, ISSN: 2325-4076.

Medicine is a developed field in Saudi Arabia. Many medical colleges and postgraduates training programs are available in different areas of the country. Complex medical operations such as twin separation are being performed with great success in this country. Many biomedical researches are originated from the kingdom

¹⁻⁴ and there is already terms in the literature linked to medical discoveries in Saudi Arabia.⁵

Our aim in this review is to shed some light on the peer-reviewed periodicals in health sciences published from Saudi Arabia as one of the evidences for the advancement of medicine in this country.

In table 1, we listed titles of journals published in health sciences from Saudi Arabia. But this table is not inclusive as some of the journals such as Saudi Journals of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Saudi Journal of Disability and Rehabilitation are not included.

As seen in the table, Saudi Medical Journal is the first medical journal to be published in Saudi Arabia. It was the initiative and the vision of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, Second Deputy Prime Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector-General (1931 – 2011), who supported its establishment.

One of the primary goals of the establishment of these journals is to give a priority for publishing researches and studies pertinent to health problems in Saudi Arabia. These journals are playing the very essential role of a bridge between the medical culture in the Middle East and in the West, where it is considered as a tool to understand and recognize the modules and quality of the medical profession together with the clinical approaches to medical problems being confronted in our area.

Few titles changed their name by time .For example, King Faisal Specialist Hospital Medical Journal which was established in 1981 changed its name to Annals of Saudi Medicine in 1985. Another example is the Journal of Saudi Society of Dermatology is now published as "Journal of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery".

There are titles in many but not all health disciplines. Table 1 is noticeable for the absence of title in nursing.

The frequency of publication for many of the journals increased and many of them are now published quarterly.

As seen from the table, the periodicals are affiliated to different sectors .Namely, King Faisal Hospital and Research Centre, the universities, the professional societies and the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.

All of the periodicals in table.1 are published in English language but there are few of them publish also Arabic abstracts.

As evidence of their high scientific quality, many of the periodicals in table.1 are indexed in PubMed.

Authors and readers alike are benefiting currently from sophisticated tools which made contributions and reading easy and enjoyable .The contents of the journals reach the readers in no time through online access.

Needless to say that there are many challenges facing periodicals in health sciences⁶⁻⁹. For example creating a staff expert in publishing and editorial operations, and the utilization of internet and technologies to allow their contents to be available in social media website and e-mail and to be reached easily in cell phones.

Rising the impact factor (IF) and inclusion in the PubMed remain an important task for the newly launched journals.

Table.1: Selected peer-reviewed periodicals in health sciences from Saudi Arabia (listed alphabetically)

Journal	Start year	Current Editor	Remarks
Annals of Saudi Medicine	1981	Nasser Al-Sanea	Six issues per year. It is a publication of King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre. Available online at; http://www.annsaudimed.net/
Annals of Thoracic Medicine	2006	Mohamed S. Al Moamary	Four issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Thoracic Society supported by King Saud University. Available online at; http://www.thoracicmedicine.org/

Hematology/Oncology and Stem Cell Therapy	2008	Mahmoud Aljurf	Four issues per year. It is a publication of King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center. Available online at; http://www.hemoncstem.net/content/aims
International Journal of Health Sciences	2006	Abdullah Ali Alghasham	Four issues per year. It is a publication of Qassim University. Available online at; http://ijhs.org.sa/index.php/journal/about
International Journal of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine	2014	S. Al-Hajjar	Four issues per year. It is a publication of King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center. Available online at; http://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-pediatrics-and-adolescent-medicine/
Journal of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery	1989	Steve Feldman	Two issues per year. It is a publication of Saudi Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic surgery supported by King Saud University. Available online at; www.jssdds.org
Journal of Family and Community Medicine	1994	Sameeh Al-Almaie	Three issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine. Available online at; http://www.jfcmonline.com/
Journal of Health Specialties	2013	James Ware	Four issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Commission of Health Specialties. Available online at; www.thejhs.org
Journal of Infection and Public Health	2008	H. H. Balkhy	Six issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Arabian National Guard Health Affairs, King Saud Bin Abdul-Aziz University for Health Sciences and Saudi Association for Public Health. Available online at; http://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-infection-and-public-health/
Journal of Orthodontic Science	2012	Ali H. Hassan	Four issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Orthodontic Society. Available online at; http://www.jorthodsci.org/
Journal of The Saudi Heart Association	1988	Hani K. Najm	Four issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Heart

			Association supported by King Saud University. Available online at; http://www.journalofthesaudiheart.com/
Neurosciences	1995	Ali AlBarrak	Four issues per year. Hosted by Prince Sultan Military Medical City. Available online at; http://www.neurosciencesjournal.org/
Saudi Dental Journal	1988	K. A. Al Wazzan	Four issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Dental Society supported by King Saud University. Available online at; http://www.saudidentaljournal.com/
Saudi Endodontic Journal	2011	Saad Al-Nazhan	Three issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Endodontic Society. Available online at; http://www.saudiendodj.com
Saudi Journal of Anesthesia	2007	Abdulhamid Al-Saeed	Four issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Anaesthetic Association. Available online at; http://www.saudija.org/
Saudi Journal for Dental Research	2014	Nahid Y. Ashri	Two issues per year. It is a publication of King Saud University .Available online at; http://www.journals.elsevier.com/the-saudi-journal-for-dental-research
Saudi Journal of Gastroenterology	1995	Ayman A. Abdo and Faisal M. Sanai	Six issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Gastroenterology Association. Available online at ; http://www.saudijgastro.com/
Saudi Journal for Health Sciences	2012	Talal Abdallah Al-Maliki	Three issues per year. It is a publication of Taif University. Available online at; http://www.saudijhealthsci.org
Saudi Journal of Kidney Diseases and Transplantation	1990	Abdullah A. Al-Khader	Six issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation. Available online at ; http://www.sjkdt.org
Saudi Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences	2013	Abdulaziz Al-Quorain and Hassan Bella	Three issues per year. It is a publication of university of Dammam Available online at; http://www.sjmms.net/aboutus.asp
Saudi Journal of	2013	Yahia M Al-	Two issues per year. It is a

Obesity		Khalidi	publication of the Saudi Society Of Metabolic And Bariatric Surgery. Available online at; http://www.saudijobesity.com
Saudi Journal of Ophthalmology	1986	A. A. Al-Rajah,	Four issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Ophthalmological Society supported by King Saud University. Available online at; http://www.saudiophthaljournal.com/
Saudi Journal of Oral Sciences	2014	Abdullah AlShammery	Two issues per year .It is a publication of Riyadh Colleges of Dentistry and Pharmacy. Available online at; http://www.saudijos.org
Saudi Journal of Sports Medicine	2000	Abdel Galil M. Abdel Gader	Two issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Sports Medicine Federation. Available online at; http://www.sjosm.org
Saudi Medical Journal	1979	Fahdah Alokaily	Twelve issues per year. It was established under auspices of Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz. Available online at; http://www.smj.org.sa/index.php/smj
Saudi Pharmaceutical Journal	1992	I.A. Alsarra	Six issues per year. It is published by King Saud University. Available online at; http://www.journals.elsevier.com/saudi-pharmaceutical-journal/
Saudi Surgical Journal	2013	Ahmed M. A.Kensarah	Three issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi General Surgical Society. Available online at; http://www.saudisurgj.org/
Urology Annals	2009	Khalid Fouada Neel	Four issues per year. It is a publication of the Saudi Urological Association. Available online at; online at www.urologyannals.com

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