

Looking Back to Leap Forward

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When this issue of PSU Medical Journal (PSUMJ) is published, our journal will be in the process of evaluation by the Thai Journal Citation Index Centre (TCI) to be listed in its index. Indexing in the national database would certainly help increase the visibility of the journal and give it more opportunity to accomplish its mission of being a platform for knowledge sharing and promoting medical science. During the past twenty-eight months, we received support from academic colleagues, both within the university and from external contributors who lent us their hands by sharing their works, reviewing the manuscripts, and giving valuable comments for journal quality improvement. The two-year journey has shaped the identity of PSUMJ to be a 'reachable and readable' medical journal. Innovative types of publication, including VIDEO publication, diagnosis by image, and large secondary data analysis, will be added to the next issue.

The business model of academic journals has changed globally. Instead of being a knowledge-sharing place taken care of by scholars or professionals, a few giant international corporations have reset the publication game rules to be like advertising media in which scientists are asked to pay for the visibility of their discovery. The success of this business is enhanced by the university's career path, in which the promotion of a professor is given according to the rank of the journals in which he/she published his/her works. Money flows from the university that wants to promote its rank to a researcher who wants to be personally promoted along their academic career path to the publishing companies who use it to boost journal visibility. Should the values be on the scientific merit of discovery, the impact of research, or the quality of work rather than the quartile of a journal where they are published? This question might not be valid in the near future as a global expansion of media technology is expected to de-monopolize the publication business to the hands of small scientific communities. A small laboratory might have its own journal/media channels to share its works with others while conserving high scientific quality, as long as un-biased peer reviewing and constructive criticism are strictly respected.

Whether PSUMJ is accepted for inclusion in the TCI index at this submission is not known yet. However, looking back, the past two years have brought us to the state of a young and brave medical journal that is ready to try new things and place itself as a humble medium for medical science.