
EDITORIAL

Possible APJCP Loss of PubMed/MEDLINE Listing

Malcolm Anthony Moore

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On the April 6th, 2016, our office in the Korean National Cancer Center received a communication from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) that the Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention would have to comply with the PRESERVATION requirements for an Electronic-only journal by October 15th of this year, otherwise its status would need to change to **no longer indexed** in MEDLINE/PubMed. Although this message was sent to two email addresses in the NCC Korea it was not forwarded to myself as Chief Editor, despite the fact that they continued to have responsibility for the Editorial Office until April 29th, and it was only when our secretary in Thailand opened the email on becoming responsible for the apcpedit@gmail.com address that I became aware of this development. Therefore I am reporting now, rather than in the issue published last month. Unlike Thomson Reuter, who gave us no warning of being dropped from Science Citation Index last year, we at least have a grace period from now until a deadline in October (possibly now extendable to December) to consider our response.

The formalities for PRESERVATION primarily involve provision of a very detailed xml file for each article published in the journal, preferably back-dated to January 2016. I have looked into this (you may also wish to review the PubMed Central (PMC) Tagging Guidelines, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/pmcdoc/tagging-guidelines/article/style.html>, the Minimum Requirements for PMC Data Evaluation Submissions, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/pub/min_requirements/, and the File Submission Specifications, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/pub/filespec/> for your own information) and have come to the sad conclusion that it will not be possible for the APJCP editorial office as it now stands to comply with the request to provide accurate files without outside assistance. With the best will in the world we do not have the technical expertise and manpower, given that we are no longer supported by the National Cancer Center in Korea, or the UICC Asian Regional Office. In addition, the response to my request for advice as to software packages was that they do not have any suggestions to help with the conversion process. Dr Mosavi-Jarrahi of Iran has just informed me that he might find a way with the help of software from Simon Fraser University in Canada and if this is true then we will of course follow up whether it

might be possible to after all comply with requirements for PMC, but this would probably entail movement of the editorial office to Iran.

The Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention, despite having hosted eight General Assembly Conferences and a further eight Regional Conferences, has never existed as an officially constituted legal entity. Neither of our past Secretary-Generals were able or willing to establish the APOCP as an NGO, NPO or other entity which could act on behalf of its official journal. Given the constraints, whether the present incumbent will be able to do so is unclear. Indeed, the response to a recent appeal by myself to all of the major figures in the APOCP and the APJCP Board would indicate that the majority are not willing to make any personal effort to ensure that the APJCP will continue, with Dr Mosavi as one major exception. I believe that we cannot expect the APOCP to offer the necessary resources to take on any major new responsibilities, now or in the future.

As the Chief Editor I have of course to make the decision as to how to proceed as soon as possible. The APJCP functions on the basis of a promise to the authorship and readership that we will supply a service to the cancer research scientific community, basically but not solely in the Asian Pacific, under the assumption, since losing SCI indexing and our Impact Factor, that we continue to be listed on PubMed and Scopus. Both of these listings could be lost in October and under these circumstances I believe we must consider cessation of acceptance of submissions, at least until some way around the problem can be explored. Knowing that we have a back-log of approximately three months on average for papers at various stages of being processed, it is only fair that we focus on those manuscripts which can conceivably be published before the deadline set by PubMed. To give us 4 full months, later in June will therefore be the last date on which new submissions will be accepted. We will rely on authors timely responses to requests for revision and galleyproof corrections to ensure that all submissions not yet published but accepted and paid for can be included in issues 6 to 9, very possibly the last issue of the APJCP.

The final decision must await discussion with other APOCP and APJCP representatives at the forthcoming 9th Regional Conference in St Petersburg, Russia, June 20th-

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24th, but as soon as we are clear about future measures the membership will be immediately informed. Please accept my apologies for the sudden bad news that I am having to pass on. Whether we can launch an effort to save the journal may depend on the general authorship. One possibility that I have already explored is that the APJCP again become a hardcopy journal and therefore the PRESERVATION compliance might no longer be necessary. However the response from NLM was negative.

We do not fully understand the rationale of PubMed/MEDLINE regarding high-tech PRESERVATION which is very expensive and may mean that the choice of outlets for research output may become very limited for scientists in the developing world, where building infrastructure is still such a high priority. Whatever, we must be thankful that we have been indexed under flexible conditions for so long - after all 8,082 papers have been listed since we started in 2001, the vast majority in the last 5 years. That translates into a great deal of education and research infrastructure that we have been able to help establish. While our attempts to promote Asian research have not always been successful (Moore and Huang, 2015), one could say that a strong argument exists that we have been a beneficial influence in the past (Moore, 2015), even if that cannot continue into the future.

I will of course keep the entire readership informed of any developments but would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported the journal throughout its history.

References

- Moore MA (2015). APJCP loss of SCI Expanded listing and the future of the journal. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, **16**, 4145-6.
- Moore MA, Huang X (2015). Clarification of the APJCP editorial policy. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, **16**, 2589-90.