

EDITORIAL

Continuing to make leaps and bounds

A mere decade ago, the Korean Association of Orthodontists (KAO) was exploring the idea of internationalizing the Korean Journal of Orthodontics (KJO) and was seriously considering hiring a multi-national publishing company to transform the KJO into an English publication. Unfortunately, the KAO was unable to bring this idea into fruition at that time. Thereafter, Korean clinical researchers continued to steadily present their original findings when in 2008, the KJO made its first appearance in the Thomson Reuters Science Citation Index (SCI). This milestone marked the recognition of the KJO as an international journal. From this point forward, the quantity and quality of citations from the KJO would be objectively assessed.

According to the country index provided by Statistics Korea, Korea was listed at #10 in greatest number of SCI articles in 2012 with 47,066 articles. Though this statistic may not be of particular interest to KJO readers, it indicates that the KJO has met the standards set forth by the SCI. Furthermore, every year for the last three years, the KJO has received approximately 30,000 dollars' worth of financial funding from the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies to help it become a more sophisticated journal, both externally and internally, that readers can enjoy.

In 2011, the KJO became the first Korean dental journal to achieve an Impact Factor (IF) in the Journal Citation Report. The IF is an index that evaluates the amount of times that articles published in the KJO are cited in other articles related to orthodontics. The index for a given year A-1 is determined by how many times KJO articles published in years A-2 and A-3 are cited in SCI articles published in A-1. Though the KJO's 2010 IF of 0.824 was lower than the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics' (established in 1915) 2010 IF of 1.35 or the Angle Orthodontist's (established in 1931) 2010 IF of 1.0, the IF was indicative of the KJO's potential to become a major journal in the field of international orthodontics.

Beginning in 2014, the KJO will be published bi-monthly in odd-numbered months as opposed to even-numbered months in order to expedite the publishing process and more efficiently communicate with researchers. Therefore, the first issue will be published in January and the

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sixth issue will be published in November, which will allow KJO articles a greater opportunity for citations before the end of the calendar year, and in turn, raise the IF as well. This may not be a consideration for monthly journals, but for a bi-monthly journal such as the KJO, the IF is an important consideration in determining publication timing. Furthermore, by publishing the last issue of each year in November, we hope that editing problems and typos arising from tight deadlines will be minimized.

The KJO's IF in 2012 was 0.537. As a newly minted SCI journal in the field of dentistry, this was not a low value, but one that could be improved upon. For the new year, 2014, it is our hope that more researchers with high quality articles will seek to be published in the KJO and that those already published in the KJO will be cited in more notable journals because, in the end, this is what readers seeking evidence based dentistry are looking for and what the KJO Editorial Board and Reviewers pride themselves upon.

Hyung-Seon Baik
Editor-in-Chief

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