A journal for Canada...and the world

The Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology now included in Index Medicus

The gathering and distribution of information has undergone enormous change over the past decade. The electronics revolution has made it possible to collect an ever-increasing amount of data and make it available to an ever-increasing audience at an ever-increasing speed. Publishing of peer-review medical journals, of course, is part of this revolution and has undergone as great a change as any member of this group.

The reputation of a journal ultimately depends upon the quality of its published work. The increase in the amount of Canadian research has led to an increase in the number of high quality studies submitted for publishing. The quality of the journal then is mainly due to the ability of the Editorial Board to attract and select the best of these studies.

Our role, as publisher, is to produce an accurate, error-free, readable publication in the most cost-efficient manner. Also, and just as important, our task is to distribute the journal to as wide an audience of interested readers as possible – not only in Canada but around the world.

The increase in the number of available studies has also resulted in the proliferation of new journals in all areas of medicine. No one can, and no one wants to, read them all, so there has to be a selection process to determine which journals are the best. One of the ways this is accomplished is the selection of journals for indexing. Arguably the most prominent of the indexing companies is Index Medicus. The inclusion of a journal in Index Medicus greatly widens its audience and increases the chances of getting cited. There are at least 14,000 medical journals published internationally. Of those only 3200 are indexed by Index Medicus.

Each year approximately 360 journals are submitted for indexing and only 21% to 22% are selected. These journals are selected on the basis of their scientific content, importance to the international audience, originality of content, quality of data, degree of duplication with other journals, quality of editing, references, degree of research activity of the editors and authors, and the number of publications covering the same field.

The honour of being selected for indexing by Index Medicus has recently been bestowed upon *The Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology*. When the *Journal* was conceived by the co-Editors-in-Chief, Dr ABR Thomson and Dr CN Williams, the goal was to gather and publish the best gastroenterology studies, done primarily by Canadians for Canadians. Although this remains the primary mission of the *Journal*, we are honoured by its acceptance on an international level.

Robert B Kalina
Publisher