



Editorial Review

THAI JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES – FOUR YEARS AS E-JOURNAL

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The very rapid growth of internet communication now makes most scientific information just a click away, no matter where it is published. Both text and pictures from journal articles are available using many search engines, e.g., www.google.com, www.msn.com. While some journals limit patrons from gaining free access to their journal articles for a defined period (e.g., 6 months-1 year), more and more journals now provide open access. While open access has provided a great increase in the dissemination of knowledge, it has also made possible an enormous proliferation of journals. In this atmosphere, readers must be careful to review the literature critically, since some journals tend to publish ideas without any evidence-based support. Such publications provide interesting ideas but can easily confuse the literature. Thus, the best journals must continue to rigorously review papers submitted to them, so that the reader can have confidence that the articles in the journal provide useful knowledge in the biomedical area of interest.

In January 2003, the Thai Journal of Physiological Sciences (TJPS) has converted from being a hard copy journal to a completely electronic, open access publication. Its three volumes per year make the accepted articles available in a very short time after acceptance of an article, and access is granted to anyone visiting the website of the journal. Although it is not yet included in the Medline or PubMed search engines, all TJPS articles and abstracts can be easily accessed through google.com, yahoo.com, msn.com and most other search engines. The TJPS articles are also listed in the www.freemedicaljournals.com, a very popular website for access to free journals.

Over the past four years, TJPS has published 27 articles all of which underwent rigorous peer review by Thai researchers and international scientists with expertise in the submission's area of research. The papers include 7 review articles and 20 original scientific articles. Most of the submissions were from authors outside of Thailand, with many of the accepted articles being from India and Malaysia. The small number of accepted articles reflects the rigorous peer review and the fact that ISI and NIH search engines still do not index the journal. However, we believe that if the new editorial board aggressively solicits articles from top scientists and demands excellence of research in the accepted articles, then TJPS will become a much more visible journal recognized for its contributions to the international biomedical community.

We thank the authors, referees, and managing editors, especially Dr. Supaporn Muchimapura, for their excellent contributions to the Thai Journal of Physiological Sciences. Next year, the new editor-in-chief Dr. Daungporn Thongngam and her colleagues will be responsible for taking the next step in this journey to excellence. We will support and encourage them in their task, and we ask the TJPS readership assist them in creating a bright and successful future for the Thai Journal of Physiological Sciences.

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