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The Turkish Respiratory Journal (TRJ) is published by Turkish Thoracic Society. TRJ is the official journal of Turkish Thoracic Society, a volume includes three issues (April-August-December).

TRJ focuses on clinical in vitro and animal studies that contribute to the understanding of pathophysiology and treatment of diseases that affect the respiratory system and critically ill patients. Original studies, reviews, case reports, editorials, and letters to the editor are invited for publication. Contributors are requested to read “Instructions for Contributors”.

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The Turkish Respiratory Journal (TRJ) is published with an unrestricted educational grant from GlaxoSmithKline.
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We were appointed as the new Editorial Board of the Turkish Respiratory Journal in May 2003 and our main objective will be to further advance the quality of the Journal. In this context, we are aiming to work for the Journal to qualify to be included in the Science Citation Index.

In order to be covered by this scientific database, the first and foremost criterion is the timely and regular publication of the Journal. As the Editors and the Board, we will do our best to accomplish this goal.

The second criterion is that the Journal should comply with the international publication standards. In this regard, our publication review process and standards for manuscript submission have been re-evaluated and necessary changes have been made. This information can be reached at the Journal's website. The submitted manuscripts will be subject to pre-examination and will only be accepted for review if they meet these criteria.

Another important issue is the relevance and actuality of the topics of the published articles. ISI compares the candidate Journal with other journals from the same geographic area and expects that the Journal addresses important local health problems.

A final criterion is the necessity for citations to national studies or publications.

We have already written a note to Thorax Bulletin to inform our members about these important issues and asked for their support. We also wish to share our thoughts on this topic with you in the related session in the annual congress of our Society in Antalya.

The Executive Committee of the Society has been very supportive to us in that they provided considerable help to establish a good infrastructure and improve the quality of the Journal. We are using the Office of the Society’s Izmir branch and have been able to obtain the necessary equipment.

A total of 190 manuscripts were submitted to the Journal during the previous term and we have received another 47 since July 2003.

We have started accepting manuscripts online together with the old system of hard copies and submission in either way will be possible until June 2004. However, after that date, authors will only be able to submit their manuscripts online through the Journal's Website. Again, at the annual congress, there will be a special session devoted to informing the authors on the process of online submission.

We look forward to your continued support in this important mission and thank you cordially in advance.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Abdullah Sayiner

Prof. Dr. Arzu Yorgancıoğlu