



## What's next for CPJ?

WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE *CANADIAN Pharmacists Journal* this month at [www.cpjournal.ca](http://www.cpjournal.ca) (after a few delays!), it seemed like a good time to update our readers and contributors about what the future holds for *CPJ*.

We'll be continuing to add new content online, which will include some back issues and all 4 of our previously published supplements. We'll also soon be offering early-release publications, so that time-sensitive articles can be published faster. We hope you'll make it a habit to check out our website regularly and see what's new.

Now that we're online, our next goal is to become indexed by MEDLINE. Once we have published at least 20 articles and have been accessible for 6 months, we can request that our electronic journal be reviewed for possible indexing.<sup>1</sup>

Why is this important? MEDLINE is the best-known biomedical index, where researchers begin their search for information in the biomedical journal literature. It is a bibliographic database made up of the citations and abstracts of over 17 million articles from over 5000 journals published in the United States and more than 80 other countries.<sup>2</sup>

Many academics and researchers are surprised that we're not indexed in MEDLINE already. Some think that it's just a matter of filling out an application form and sending it off. But the reality is quite different — it's a highly competitive process.

We feel that we have a good chance of being successful in our quest for MEDLINE indexing. The *Canadian Pharmacists Journal* is the oldest continuously published periodical in Canada, celebrating its 140th anniversary this year, and has been peer reviewed since 2002. Our re-launch in 2005 focused the journal's direction on pharmacy practice research, in order, as our editorial chair Dr. Ross Tsuyuki said in a previous editorial, to "build the evidence base for the benefits of pharmacist care."<sup>3</sup>

In the past few years, we have published papers from some of the top pharmacy practice researchers in Canada and the world. These are academics who have published their research in many of the most prestigious international medical and health journals — the *British Medical Journal*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Archives of Internal Medicine*, the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, the *American Journal of Medicine*, the *American Journal of Cardiology*, *Arthritis and Rheumatism*, the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, *Circulation*, *Diabetes Care*, *Pharmacotherapy*, and the list goes on. (These are all journals that are indexed by MEDLINE, of course.) We have also been

fortunate to have as contributors many of Canada's most innovative and dedicated community pharmacists (some of whom you can read about in our section on this year's CPhA award winners). We are currently indexed in the International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, EMBASE, Scopus, and the Canadian Business Index.

On the other hand, here are some things to keep in mind:

- It has been estimated that there are about 13,000 to 14,000 biomedical titles currently published throughout the world. As of January 2008, only 5246 titles were included in MEDLINE.<sup>4</sup>
- At this time, only 33 journals are listed under the topic of pharmacy.
- The Literature Selection Technical Review Committee of the National Library of Medicine holds 3 meetings per year, and approximately 140 titles are examined at each meeting, with only 20% to 25% of journals being accepted for indexing.<sup>1</sup>
- If your journal is rejected after the first application, then you are allowed to re-apply after a minimum of 2 years. If it is rejected again, then you must wait for 3 years.<sup>1</sup> This allows time for journals to strengthen their editorial content and make other changes that may result in their application being accepted.

So yes, we are proceeding carefully, in order to make our first application to MEDLINE the strongest that it can be. We are very grateful for the support that our readers and the pharmacy practice research community in Canada have shown *CPJ* over the past few years, and we hope that you continue to send your manuscripts our way. Your research is the key to our being indexed — we can't do it without you!

---

*Renée Dykeman is the deputy editor of the Canadian Pharmacists Journal.*

---

### References

1. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. FAQ: journal selection for MEDLINE indexing at NLM. Available: [www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/j\\_sel\\_faq.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/j_sel_faq.html) (accessed April 18, 2008).
2. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. PubMed: MEDLINE retrieval on the world wide web. Available: [www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/pubmed.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/pubmed.html) (accessed April 28, 2008).
3. Tsuyuki RT. *CPJ* as an agent of change. *Can Pharm J* 2007;140(1):10.
4. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. List of journals indexed for MEDLINE. Available: [www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html) (accessed April 18, 2008).