

# Brunei International Medical Journal: Achieving standards with indexing and open access journal status

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It has only been six months since the relaunch of the face lifted Brunei International Medical Journal (BIMJ) together with free open online access platform at [www.bimjonline.com](http://www.bimjonline.com), BIMJ has made great strides in its aim of achieving high standards. We would like to share some of these achievements with our contributors and readers.

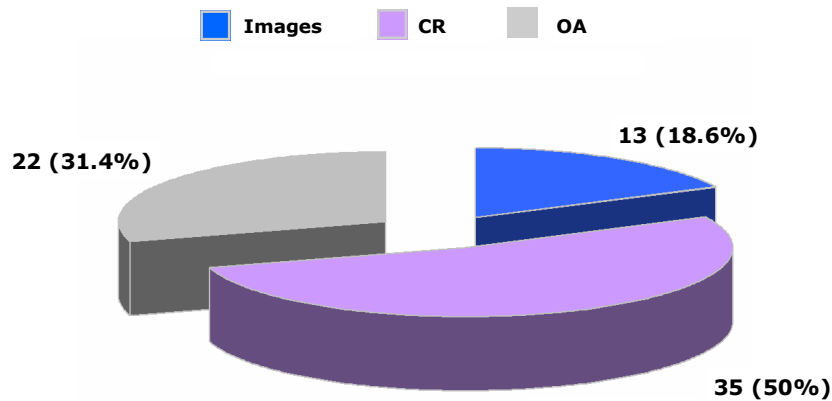
In the current era, the success of a medical journal is gauged by the citation index or the impact factor. Otherwise for smaller journals which are not yet indexed with indexing organisations, the regularity and quality of publications are very important. Since the launch of the online version, BIMJ has been accepted by Google Scholar and recently by the Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM) after the Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Editors (APAME) meeting held in Ha Noi, Vietnam (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010). Shortly after that, the Directory of

Open Access Journal (DOAJ) also included BIMJonline in their prestigious directory of open access journals, on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

Such associations increase the profiles and the out reach of the journal, which are the ultimate aims of most medical journals. Of course we will continue to work hard to improve and maintain the status of the journal by getting the journal indexed with more databases. As stated in the Editorial of the inaugural online issue, we will endeavor to get the journal indexed with Medline/PubMed, currently the most widely used and recognised database. <sup>1</sup>

Another achievement is in the number of submissions received to date. BIMJ have so far received over 22 original articles and 35 case reports (Figure 1) submitted from both locally and very encouragingly from external contributors both regionally from our ASEAN counterparts and internationally. This is excluding invited reviews that are in the pipeline from colleagues from Singapore and the United Kingdom. Besides this, there are

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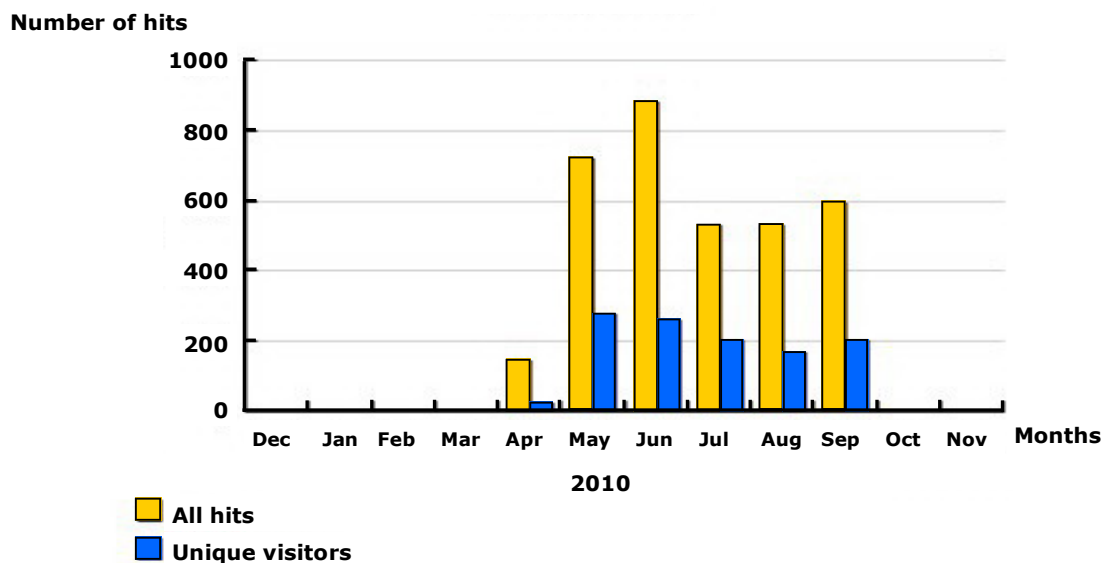


**Fig. 1: Number of submissions to the BIMJ (excluding Special Reports, Reviews and Educational articles) since the beginning of the year and the launch of the online journal.**  
**Legend: OA: Original articles and CR: Case reports.**

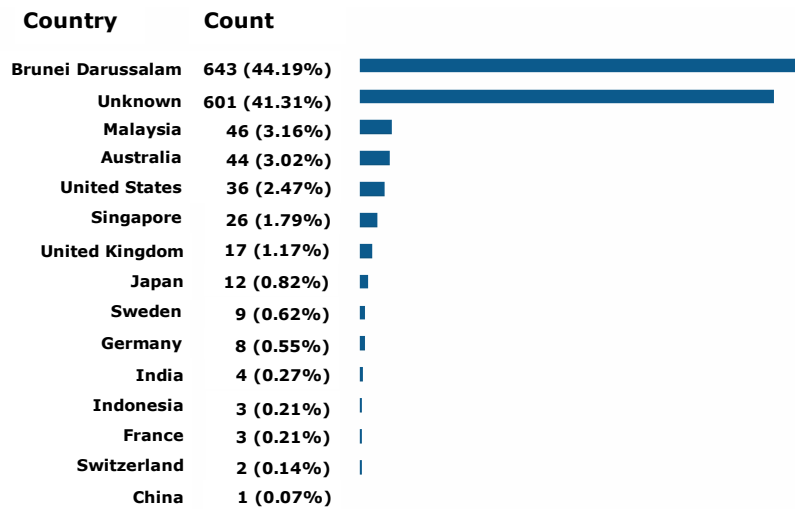
numerous manuscripts that are currently being worked on and the 13 free papers that were presented in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Brunei Surgical Scientific Sessions/7<sup>th</sup> Surgical Forum held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The abstracts of these free papers have now been published as supplement. <sup>2</sup> Promisingly, most if not all of these manuscripts are interesting and are worthy of being published.

Currently, the acceptance rate for the journal is high, like many new journals. It is expected that with time, as the journal matures, the acceptance rates will fall.

Of course like any journal, submission quality ranges from poor to very good. From the BIMJ point of view, the quality and content of the majority of the submitted manu-



**Fig. 2: The number of website hits per month (up till October). Unique hits are the number of individuals**



**Fig. 3: The origin of BIMJ website hits (October 2010).**

scripts has not been an issue thus far. For some, preparation and grammar requires improvement. Currently, the Clinical Research Unit (CRU) working with the BIMJ editorial board has dedicated their time as much as possible to working with the authors on improving their manuscripts to a higher standard. While this will create a substantial workload for the reviewers and editorial board members, it will hopefully be a learning exercise for the authors. As the saying goes, practice makes perfect.

The CRU will be running a medial writing workshop, focusing on how to write a case report on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2011. This followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Medical Writing Skills Workshop (14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011) that is endorsed by the APAME. The first of such workshop was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2010. We would also like to encourage our contributors to contact us if there are any queries regarding manuscripts that they are working on or during preparation for submissions. The ensuing discussions will usually improve the submitted manuscripts and we can also provide guidance

regarding what BIMJ is looking for.

The launch of Bimjonline has also meant that BIMJ can now be accessed by medical professionals not just within Brunei Darussalam, but also from the rest of the world. In the space of almost six months, Bimjonline has been accessed with over four thousand nine hundreds hits (Figure 2) registered, locally as well as by countries within and outside of the region (Figure 3). This is an indication of what to expect in the future so long as we, and this includes BIMJ, contributors and reviewers, maintain our standards.

Finally, we urge our contributors and reviewers to continue to provide the support required to maintain and to bring BIMJ forward to the standards of internationally recognised reputable medical journals.

**REFERENCES**

**1:** Chong VH. Brunei International Medical Journal: Future directions. *Brunei Int Med J.* 2010; 6: 1-4.  
**2:** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Brunei Surgical Scientific/7<sup>th</sup> Surgical Forum 2010. *Brunei Int Med J.* 2010; 6 (Supplement 1): i-x.