Help Your Editors to Keep Smiling and a Tenth Birthday Celebration

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Your Editors and our supporting Editorial Board have one central aim: to contribute to improving the health of everyone in our region, not matter where they live, whatever their age, gender, religion, or ethnicity. In short, we believe that through public health and the organized efforts of society to prevent disease and improve health outcomes, we can make everyone’s lives better. We are also responsible for ensuring that the journal meets the Vision and Mission of our owners, the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH):

The Vision of the Consortium is to achieve the highest possible level of health of all the people of the nations of the Asia Pacific region.¹

The Mission of the Consortium is to enhance regional capacity to improve the quality of life and to address major public health challenges through the delivery of education, research, and population health services by member institutions.

We know that only high-quality papers can be used to guide public health policies and interventions, and so we insist on a high standard of research design for the journal. The Asia Pacific region is diverse in its disease burden, political structure, geography, and ethnic patterns. So we aim to achieve a balance of countries and public health problems addressed in the articles that we accept within the limits of the number of articles we are able to publish.

Every month we have to reject a number of papers that have been submitted to the journal. While some are on specific clinical subjects, a number of these papers are on topics that would be of interest for the journal, providing the study had been of a higher quality or the paper had been better written. Give yourself a better chance of getting your work published and keep your editors happy by following a few simple rules.

We cannot edit your English for you and this should be arranged prior to submission of your paper. We will not consider studies that do not have prior approval from an officially constituted ethics committee. Common reasons for rejecting papers include sample sizes that are too small or not representative of the target population or have vague objectives and indefinite outcomes. Modern papers almost always include multivariate analysis, and you will need the advice of a statistician. Our readers like to know how your study fits with other studies and what will be the implications for public health practice, so mention these in your discussion. We like to receive good reviews of public health topics that are relevant to our region, but these must follow the PRISMA guidelines.²

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The EQUATOR Network (Enhancing the Quality and Transparency of Health Research) is celebrating its 10th birthday this year. They provide a very useful resource for all public health researchers and epidemiologists. Bookmark the URL in your computer. The APJPH editors recommend that you read and use the PRISMA guidelines for systematic reviews, CONSORT for randomized controlled trials, and STROBE for observational studies.

Prior to this year’s APACPH conference at Teikyo University, we will be running a workshop on Friday, September 16 (http://www2.convention.co.jp/apacph2016/). This year’s workshop will be titled, “Don’t Feel Rejected: How to Maximise Your Chances of Getting Your Paper Published.” On Thursday afternoon (September 15), we are also running a workshop on “APACPH Dietary Guidelines” and improving nutrition in our region. Conference attendees are welcome to register for both workshops.

Each year, there are 1.25 million articles listed in the PubMed database from approximately 26,000 journal titles. Yet despite this avalanche of information, it is more difficult than ever to get your article published in a journal with a reasonable impact factor. Our workshop will help you get your paper published. We will also be available during the APACPH Conference to provide advice on your paper and how to improve your paper.

Your editors like to keep smiling, so send us your papers that are well written and scientifically valid. Help us achieve our goal to publish and communicate to achieve health for all. We hope to see you at the APACPH conference in this September in Tokyo.

References