

## The Need of a Peer-Reviewed Journal for International Medical Graduates - An Editorial:

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Journal of International Medical Graduates

Over the years, we have seen the International Medical Graduates (IMGs) struggling to match into the United States Medical Residency system. Many of them pass the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) and match without research publications; however, many IMGs are left behind and do not match because they did not improve their chances of matching by improving their curriculum vitae (CV) enough. They could not add research publications on their CV, or they could not add enough US clinical experience to show and impress the residency program directors and justify their selection.

US clinical experience is something everyone can find if they search for it. Once they find it, they have to wake up, get ready, be there at the hospital on time, and be with the physician on duty. If it is a tele-rotation, they have to be online at the given time. There is not much trouble in getting this experience and adding this experience to their CV. The real problem arises when it comes to research papers and publications. Most IMGs come from countries where research is widespread. Therefore, they do not have publications. According to my experience, out of every twenty students I speak to, only one or two had publications before, and that too is a second, third, fourth author publication. Most of the time, it is not the first author publication. One problem is the lack of research knowledge, but the deeper problem is not knowing the writing skills and knowledge about publishing.

We know that IMGs are new to the process of publishing, and they will make grammatical and spellings mistakes while submitting. We know that their papers could be relative of low quality. Nevertheless, we will still publish their papers after improving the minor errors and reject the paper only if it has significant errors pointed out by the reviewers. However, we will still give them another chance to submit and publish the same paper because the mission of this journal is that no IMG should be without a publication (of course, it is a big dream and not achievable easily, but at least we can try our best). We understand that the articles published in journals of high impact and journals with popular names carry more value than new journals, and no one denies this fact, but what we are saying is that some publication is better than nothing.

Moreover, because of this journal, most IMGs will now have publications when they apply for the residency match. Publishing in JIMG will boost their confidence and self-esteem, and they will feel confident to write better papers and publish in popular journals with higher impact factors. We are not claiming to be the best journal. We are saying that this journal is a great way to start for IMGs who are beginners in research to gain experience and confidence. Later, with that confidence and experience, they can publish their papers in journals with higher impact factors.

Unfortunately, many of those researchers, or IMGs who got publications in the journals of higher impact factor try to discourage IMGs by giving them the wrong information that if they do not have a publication in a top tier journal, they will not match, or the publication in any other journal will not impress the residency directors. Now the question is, is it feasible for all the IMGs to publish their papers in top-tier journals when they have not even written anything before? The answer is clear. It is not that easy to publish in the top journals when they have not written anything before. Especially publishing the first author paper in a top-tier journal by a new graduate doctor who has never written anything before is not an easy job and is not always possible.

Residency Directors and Program coordinators know this and are not unaware that these IMGs are new to the system and new to the process of research and publications. So how is it possible that they will ignore their efforts to publish in any journal? The directors will not undermine the hard work of these new young doctors. Many journals with big names prefer experienced professors and clinicians to publish in their journal, which is also by invitation only. Then how can these IMGs always publish in the top journals? Of course, it is not easy, feasible, and wise to keep trying to publish in the top journals because IMGs do not have time. They only have a few months after their medical school to apply for the residency match, and if they do not publish a paper before September 15th, they will have to apply for the residency match without a publication that does not look on their profile. Therefore, we felt a dire need for a rapid publishing peer-reviewed journal for International Medical Graduates that only prefer IMGs to publish their papers. Our journal "Journal for International Medical Graduates (JIMG)" invites all the IMGs to submit and publish their papers at a nominal fee because we also need to run the journal by paying our dedicated staff to keep the journal running. The IMGs can submit their articles of any kind and publish their papers relatively faster, in less than a month.

We firmly believe that the concept of "something is better than nothing" is correct; therefore, these publications will still help IMGs. These publications will be worth something. In addition, the most important thing that I have realized over time is the quality of a paper and the strength of the topic matter; the journal is a secondary issue. The real power is in what the author wants to say and what value the article brings to the readers. Furthermore, I firmly believe that these IMGs can bring value to the readers, including patients and student doctors, with their publications. I hope this journal will accomplish the mission of making most if not all IMGs published authors and will become one of the most popular and go-to journals for IMGs around the globe, whether they are applying for the US residency or training programs in any part of the world.

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