



## EDITORIAL

# Journal of Optometry in Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and peer-review process during COVID-19 pandemic



## Journal of Optometry indexado en Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) y proceso de revisión por pares durante la pandemia COVID-19

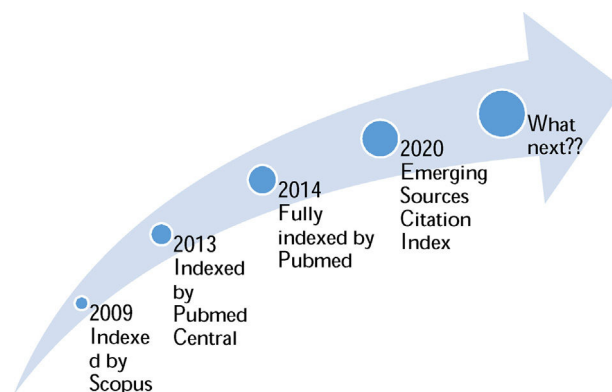
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By March 2020, while the entire planet Earth was entering a dark time of pandemia, we communicated in this editorial the trends of J Optom in different bibliometric indices including Impact Factor, SCImago Journal Ranking, H-index, CiteScore and Source Normalized Impact per Paper.<sup>1</sup>

More recently the CiteScore has been reviewed by Elsevier to mitigate some short-term trends and J Optom raised even further in its score from 1.65 to 2.3.<sup>2</sup> According to Scopus, this new calculation enforces credibility of the score by only considering peer-review publications, considering a longer window of 4 years instead of 3 and considering the more recent citations in the year of calculation.<sup>3</sup> This is only an aspect of the impact of the journal that has increased steadily as it continues to consolidate through different milestones achieved over the last years.<sup>4</sup>

Now, we received the communication that the Journal of Optometry has been included in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) by Clarivate Web of Science. ESCI™ was introduced in 2015 and is part of the Web of Science Core Collection™, formerly known as Institute for Science Information Web of Science (ISI WoS) ranking. In the words of Clarivate Web of Science “ESCI contains quality publica-



**Figure 1** Some of the major indexing milestones achieved by Journal of Optometry.

tions, selected by our expert in-house editors for editorial rigor and best practice at a journal level”.<sup>5</sup> This is an additional recognition for this project that joins to other previous achievements as the indexation in Pubmed and Pubmed Central among others,<sup>6</sup> as illustrated in Fig. 1 and detailed in Table 1.

Going back to the new calculation algorithm of CiteScore, it is very important that the updated score for Journal of Optometry as well as for most of the optometric oriented journals raised, meaning that the citation profile

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.optom.2020.06.003>

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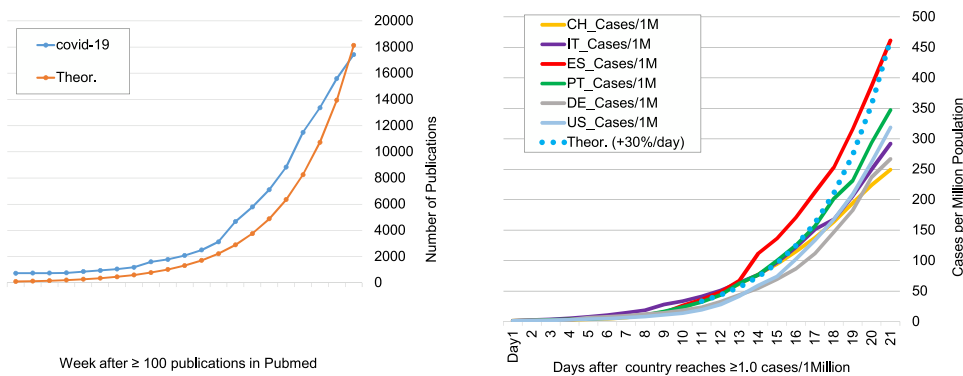
**Table 1** Some major landmarks achieved by Journal of Optometry.

Date	Milestone
March 2008	Public launch of the Journal of Optometry and 1st Call for Abstracts
April 2008	Webpage available for <i>Open Access</i>
April 2008	Automatic Submission and Tracking System starts
September 2008	Publication of the first issue of the Journal
May 2009	Journal of Optometry indexed by Scopus
October 2009	First 100 manuscripts submitted in 1.5 years
January 2010	Over 14500 visits to the web during 2009
June 2010	ELSEVIER starts publishing Journal of Optometry
November 2010	Journal of Optometry papers indexed in Science Direct
January 2012	<i>Ahead-of-Print</i> facility shortens the time-to-publish significantly
June 2013	J Optom achieves the mark of 100 manuscripts submitted in one year
July 2013	PubMed Central announces indexing Journal of Optometry
August 2013	Over 4700 downloads of papers from the web in 1 month
March 2014	Journal of Optometry indexed in Pubmed-Medline
December 2014	<a href="http://www.journalofoptometry.org">www.journalofoptometry.org</a> receives over 10.000 visitors in one month
January 2015	Manuscripts submitted by Spanish authors overcome for the first time the number of manuscripts submitted by US authors
March 2015	The mark of 6500 downloads/month from <a href="http://www.journalofoptometry.org">www.journalofoptometry.org</a> is achieved
April 2015	Over 550 papers have been submitted for publication in Journal of Optometry since 2009
May 2015	Over 130000 visitors to the journal's webpage
June 2015	Over 200 papers have been published by Journal of Optometry (not including editorials)
December 2015	Most read articles in the webpage receive over 50.000 downloads.
December 2018	Over 143000 downloads of full text documents during 2018
June 2019	According to the Scimago Journal Ranking (SJR), JOptom ranks 3rd in the Optometry field, (Q1)*
December 2019	J Optom receives over 200 manuscripts/year during 2019.
June 2020	J Optom receives over 150 manuscripts during 1st semester 2020.
June 2020	Journal of Optometry indexed in Emerging Source Citation Index (ESCI) by Clarivate Web of Science.

is currently increasing in this field and those citations are originated from peer-review publications. Journal of Optometry commits with this principle that oriented our strategy from the early times of the journal to warrant peer-review process to all the material being published as Reviews and Meta-analysis, Original Articles, Case Reports and Technical Letters. This has been the practice even for COVID-19 related publications submitted to J Optom over the last months, including some of them already published as "pre-proof" or "corrected proof" after going through peer-review, instead of "pre-print" before peer-review process.<sup>7-9</sup> With that approach J Optom remains faithful to scientific values, avoiding to contribute to fast, "non-filtered" information overload,<sup>10</sup> including pre-print publication that has been recently under strong scrutiny,<sup>11,12</sup> including several retractions of published manuscript.<sup>13</sup>

Fig. 2A shows the weekly evolution of publications indexed in Pubmed from January through May 2020 fitted to a "pandemic" progression exponential trend similar to the one followed in many countries by the reported new COVID-19 cases during the first wave (Fig. 2B).

Of course, the role of pre-print publication in such an emergency should not be dismissed, but demands even more critical thinking<sup>9</sup> from the audience of those journals to appraise the information published before making decisions with impact on people's lives.<sup>14,15</sup> Social media journalists should also be aware of the characteristics of the different publications and the impact of the reviewing process when they communicate to their audience as such information might have impact on individuals and policy making in emergency situations as the recent pandemic remind us.<sup>16</sup>



**Figure 2** (A): Weekly evolution of publications in Pubmed retrieved with keywords “covid-19” during the 21 weeks after reaching  $\geq 100$  publications showing duplication of the number of publications every 3.3 weeks (Theor.). Search for cumulative publications in: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/> from January 2019 for (covid-19) AND (2019/01/30[Date - Publication]: 2020/moth/day[Date - Publication]) till July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 when the search was updated. (B): Evolution of new cases during Covid-19 pandemic in several countries during first 21 days adjusted to Day 1 when  $\geq 1$  case/million was achieved. China data arbitrarily fitted to a population of 125 million.

CH: China; IT: Italy; ES: Spain; PT: Portugal; DE: Germany; US: United States of America; Theor: theoretical fitting assumes that new cases duplicate approximately every 3.3 days or an increase of 30% every day.

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