Author's response to reviews

Title: Bridging knowledge translation gap in health in developing countries: visibility and publishing standards in journals from the Eastern Mediterranean

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Dear Editor,

Systematic studies of journals from low- and middle-income countries are rare, especially about their visibility to the global scientific community and the publishing quality and transparency. We are submitting our manuscript entitled “Bridging knowledge translation gap in health in developing countries: visibility and publishing standards in journals from the Eastern Mediterranean” for consideration of publication in the BMC Medicine. The area of Eastern Mediterranean, which includes 22 countries that publish medical journals, from Afghanistan to Morocco, is currently not only the home of major social and political shifts, but also the source of globally relevant health research and information. To assess the presence of the medical research information from the region in the mainstream scientific community, we analyzed 419 journals published in these countries for their presence in major international bibliographical databases, citations received to items published in 2006 over the span of 3 years (2006-2009) and adherence to publishing and editorial standards in the journals. This is, to the best of our knowledge, the first systematic analysis of the visibility and publishing quality of one of the major and relevant global regions, and may serve as a starting point for strategic decisions on how to improve journals in bibliographical databases as tools in developing regional research with global relevance. Based on the collected evidence, we provide recommendations to all stakeholders in journal publishing: researchers, editors, journal owners, national policy makers, and citation databases to foster regional excellence in scientific publishing. We hope that our study will be of interest to the readers of BMC Research Methodology. We are sure that this piece of research will receive attention and citations of the scientific community.

Thank you in advance for considering our work.

Sincerely,

Ana Marušić