Supporting Authors in Lower and Middle Income Countries

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**Background**

In September 2020, ecancer, an open access oncology journal, changed its submission criteria to only accept articles with at least one author from a Lower and Middle Income Country (LMIC) or which have a significant impact on underserved settings.

This decision was made in response to the urgent need to step up cancer services in LMICs, as WHO predicts a 60% increase in cancer cases in the next 20 years, with an estimated 81% of new cases occurring in LMICs [1].

**Effect of new submission criteria on submission and publication rates**

The percentage of published articles from LMICs and underserved settings rose from 51% in September 2020 to 82% in September 2021. The submission rate has remained steady since the new criteria were announced.

**Editorial board**

It is essential that local experts are involved in the publication process. LMIC-based Editorial Board members rose from 36% of the board in 2020 to 50% in 2021.

Not-for-profit

ecancer has a Pay What You Can Afford model - authors are asked to make a voluntary donation to the charity which supports the journal, the ecancer Global Foundation.

**Effect of new submission criteria on Article Processing Charges (APCs)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of authors paying APC</th>
<th>Average income per paper*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>£32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>£117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>£137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*across all publications, not average individual APC

**Community feedback**

Please click the links below for community feedback videos:

- Bhawna Sirohi
- Dorothy Lombe
- Soumitra Datta
- Carlos Castro

More detail can be found here

**References**


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