

The IJOEM: Any Progress?

Surfing on the wings of time, days turned into weeks. Weeks turned into months. And, I found myself at a point to write you again—three months after the first issue of *The IJOEM*. Since then, many things happened: the Journal was welcomed by various healthcare professionals so that its Web site (www.theijoem.com and www.theijoem.org), received more than 60 000 hits almost three weeks after it was launched on late December 2009. Most of the visits were from Iran and the United States. The articles published in the first issue have been well received and downloaded between 109 and 195 times by the end of February 2010. Our Journal is now well-known by robots of various Web search engines including *Google* and *Yahoo*. It is now indexed by *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)* and by the *Index Medicus* for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (*IMEMR*). *The IJOEM* has also entered into an electronic licensing relationship with EBSCO Publishing, the world's most prolific aggregator of full text journals, magazines and other sources. The full text of the Journal will shortly be found on EBSCO Publishing's databases. We will endeavor to have the Journal indexed by other services over the next year.

Two members of the Editorial Board asked about the editorial freedom at *The IJOEM*. They asked about the Journal's relationship with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

Most of the oil reserves in Iran are in the Persian Gulf territory. Previously, most of these supplies had been developed by the British Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC). After a long argument, on March 20, 1951, the Iranian Parliament and Senate voted to nationalize the British-owned oil industries and to operate the Company by the Iranian government, hence, the AIOC changed to NIOC. Since then, every year, Iranians celebrate this day. Officially, NIOC is headed by the Minister of Oil. Over time, many parts of this governmental company spun off from the main company and although they kept a few of the rules, they were registered as independent governmental organizations with their own bylaws, rules and regulations. National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), National Iranian Petrochemical Company (NIPC), and NIOC Health Organization are three such independent companies. The main company still receives services from many of these newly-developed independent governmental organizations since it knows that all these companies provide high standard services, partly for those very basic rules they inherited.

NIOC Health Organization, the owner of this Journal, is one of such independent organizations. Its mission is to provide healthcare services—at all levels, prevention, treatment, *etc*—to the employees (and their family members) of all the other companies giving services to the main company (NIOC, NIGC, NIPC, *etc*). In 2000, the NIOC Health Organization announced its complete independence as a healthcare provider and expanded its service to include 22 other private and governmental companies. Therefore, *The IJOEM*, is indeed not owned by an oil company.

Our Editorial Freedom Policy is available on *The IJOEM* Web site (www.theijoem.com).

com/ijoem/index.php/ijoem/about/editorialPolicies#custom0). If you have not already done so, I encourage you to read it. At *The IJOEM* we understand issues of transparency and conflicts of interest which is why we are publishing an Editorial in this issue of the Journal on this very important issue and the different types of conflict of interest in biomedical journals.

In keeping with a widespread national policy, NIOC Health Organization may be transferred from the government to the private sector. In this issue of the Journal, we also publish an Editorial and an article discussing privatization of healthcare providers and its foreseeable consequences.

I hope this communication will no longer remain unidirectional and we soon receive your feedback. Finally, I think it is important to publish articles about the climate change and its impacts on health; we surely welcome such articles. I hope you will continue to enjoy the quality of the papers in this issue and we look forward to your invaluable comments.

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