

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

TITLE BMB is Arab world's first open access journal

Today, the *Bahrain Medical Bulletin* (BMB) became the Arab world's first open access journal. Dr. Jaffar Al-Bareeq, Chief Editor of the *BMB*, said "This change is part of *BMB*'s belief that medical research is an international public resource and should be provided with a copyright license that supports sharing of scientific knowledge." Dr. Al-Bareeq founded the journal in 1979.

Starting with the December 2008 issue, all *BMB* articles are freely available online and deposited in a public archive immediately upon publication. Anyone is free to copy, distribute, and reuse BMB content as long as he or she credits the original author and source.

Dr. Mohammad Al-Ubaydli, a Senior Editor at the *BMB*, said "Open access publishing brings the same revolution to the publishing of scientific information that open source software brought to the creation of software". Dr. Al-Ubaydli led the conversion to open access.

This conversion is funded by grants from the Kuwait Finance House and the Ministry of Health.

Although some journals in the region already allow readers free access to the website, *BMB* is the first to allow reuse the content in other ways through the open access license.

One important example of reuse is by other scientists and physicians who would like to review the evidence from all the journals to identify the best treatments for patients.

This commitment to access to knowledge by a Bahraini journal complements Bahrain's existing medical infrastructure. For example, the only Cochrane Center in the Middle East is in Bahrain. Cochrane is the international collaboration between medical scientists around the world to evaluate and identify clinical treatments for patient care.

##Ends##

Notes to editors

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About the *BMB*

The Bahrain Medical Bulletin is published every three months appearing in March, June, September and December. Its first issue was published in 1979. It is indexed in the World Health Organization Index Medicus for Eastern Mediterranean Region (IMEMRI), Extramed of the United Kingdom and International Serial Data System of France.

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