

# Letter to the Editor

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The inauguration of a new venture always instills a sense of excitement and anticipation with which I pen this introductory editorial to the newly established journal of Forensic Medicine and Anatomy Research (FMAR). The premier issue in January 2013 sported a spectacular cover portraying a range of icons representing organic molecules superimposed on the DNA helix transiting through to the human skeleton, conveying the intended contents of the journal. This peer reviewed open access journal, to be published quarterly, provides a platform for a variety of disciplines that interconnect with human morphology in all its manifestations. The FMAR initiates a new repository for reports on far-reaching fields of anatomical sciences encompassing related disciplines of anthropology, evolution, paleoanthropology, comparative anatomy, forensic anatomy, pathological anatomy, embryology, genetics, odontology, ethnicity and forensic sciences. It is encouraging to note the interdisciplinary nature of the anticipated content from a wide variety of subjects to allow integration of diversity to a common goal of insightful interpretations of interconnecting themes. The opportunity to inform and report on meetings and courses in the fields encompassed by FMAR presents itself to a world-wide readership.

The current cornucopia of proliferating online publications opens a Pandora's Box of both possibilities and risks in unsolicited submissions of articles offered to FMAR. The need for peer review of submitted articles is

of undoubted necessity, that, in itself invites assessment of the reviewers, ranging from "pit bulls" to "pussy-cats". The reputation of this online journal will rest on the quality of the peer review process, that, in turn, determines its "impact factor". The consequences of the impact factor skewing research reports has been the subject of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) that aims to stop the use of the "journal impact factor", a measure of how often a journal's articles is cited (Alberts, 2013). Impact factors do not accurately reflect the value of the work published, that must be taken into consideration in evaluating the contributions to scientific knowledge of articles published in FMAR. Nonetheless, the aim of this new publication is to provide readers insights that go beyond simple morphological analyses and aids investigations into unconventional oddities and distortions of the human condition.

In my capacity as an Editorial Board member, I hope to contribute to the success of FMAR's expansion of knowledge of science.

G. H. Sperber

## REFERENCE

- [1] Alberts, B. (2013) Editorial: Impact factor distortions. *Science*, **340**, 787.  
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