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Arab Journal of Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine

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المجتمعة العربية للعلوم الجنائية والطب الشرعي
Arab Society for forensic Sciences and forensic Medicine

The Arab Journal of Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine (AJFSFM): A new era of sharing knowledge and research

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Education and research are indispensable tools for the scientific and economic growth of a nation; and it is of the greatest importance to have effective mechanisms which provide the academic and scientific community with the latest research and recent developments in their respective fields of expertise. This rapid broadcasting of scientific information not only facilitates their research but also contributes towards exciting new discoveries. Scientific journals and magazines are one of the best means to facilitate the dissemination of vital research and other information essential to the academic and scientific community. At present, there are more than 28,000 scholarly journals serving the scientific community, researchers, students and professionals worldwide.

The Arab Journal of Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine (AJFSFM) is the academic journal of the Arab Society for Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine (ASFSFM), and was launched in April 2014.

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The publishing of this journal marks a major achievement for the ASFSFM. This journal will provide an effective platform for Arab and international forensic scientists to present their latest research and will facilitate cooperation and discussion between experts in all fields related to forensic science and forensic medicine.

About the Journal

The Arab Journal of Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine is a biannual peer-reviewed, open access, international journal dedicated to the development and application of forensic science and forensic medicine knowledge and research for the purpose of law and justice in the world. The AJFSFM is the official publication of the Arab Society for Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine, and is under the patronage of Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Riyadh – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Vision

A leading journal that contributes to the growth of forensic science education, research and practice by delivering the latest information contained in original research papers that enhance the understanding, knowledge and skills of forensic scientists in the Arab world and across the globe.

Aims

- Sharing knowledge, research experience, recent achievements and new technologies in various disciplines of forensic sciences and forensic medicine

among forensic scientists from Arab countries and the rest of the world.

- Achieving a leading position in its field by publishing genuine, outstanding, trustworthy, and unpublished research submitted by ambitious researchers, spreading to all scientists, pathologists, jurists, medicolegal professionals and students in the field of forensic sciences and forensic medicine.
- Playing a vital role in global forensic science research and development by disseminating superior and innovative research and information to all those involved in serving justice, and to those who believe in adapting modern scientific tools and technologies for the investigation, detection, prosecution and prevention of crime.
- Serving the needs of academics as well as security personnel working on the ground in forensic investigation.

Scope

The AJFSFM will publish original contributions in many different disciplines of forensic medicine, forensic science and criminal justice including but not limited to:

- Forensic pathology
- Odontology
- Histochemistry
- Toxicology (drugs, alcohol, poisons, etc.)
- Forensic biology (body fluids, human DNA profiling, population studies of human identity markers, entomology; hair and fiber, non-human DNA)
- Forensic Chemistry (inks, paints, dyes, explosives, fire accelerants and propellants)
- Forensic psychiatry and Hypnotics
- Forensic anthropology and archeology
- Impressions (fingerprints, tool-marks, tires, writing)
- Firearms
- White collar crimes (counterfeit and forgery, questioned documents)
- Digital forensics (cybercrimes, credit card crimes)
- Criminal justice
- Investigations of value to public health.

The AJFSFM will publish contributions submitted from any part of the world that fall under any of the following categories

1. Original research papers
2. Case reports
3. Review articles
4. Rapid Communications
5. Brief /Technical notes

6. Letters to the Editor
7. Book Reviews
8. Conferences / Symposia Proceedings
9. Society news
10. Announcements

AJFSFM Editorial Team

An editorial team plays very crucial role in the success of a journal. Routinely, an editorial team comprises an editor-in-Chief, Deputy- or an Assistant Editor(s), Associate Editor(s), Managing Editor, Editorial Board, and/or an Advisory Board. The Editorial/Advisory Boards constitute an essential and fundamental unit of a journal and their members are the pillars upon whom the entire structure of the journal stands. Their academic and professional competency in their respective fields is well recognized all over the world.

At present, the editorial team of the AJFSFM comprises of an Editor-in-Chief, three Associate Editors, one Managing Editor, 11 members of the Editorial Board, 9 members of the Advisory Board, and a team of staunch peer reviewers. Members of the AJFSFM editorial team are highly qualified and well-known scholars from the Arab world as well as international academia. They include forensic pathologists, toxicologists, molecular biologists, forensic chemists, geneticists, forensic serologists, biostatisticians, crime scene experts, and criminal justice specialists. Their outstanding academic research and vast experience in various disciplines of forensic science and forensic medicine is well established.

Responsibilities of the Editorial/Advisory Board include the following:

- Providing input on editorial needs and reviewing manuscripts, as requested.
- Peer reviewing and offering mutually respectful and constructive reviews of manuscripts to assist in providing the highest quality papers.
- Maintaining confidentiality and objectivity with regard to manuscripts and the review process.
- Encouraging authors whose primary language is not English to seek mentorship or assistance from a colleague prior to submitting a manuscript for review.
- Acting as Journal ambassadors and sourcing potential authors, readers, and potential subscribers in their region. They can also encourage their students and colleagues to read and cite the journal.
- Advising on editorial strategy, providing inspiration and advice and playing a productive role in the development of the Journal.



- Planning for the future strategy of the Journal and formulating new ideas and innovations.
- Monitoring the output of the Journal to ensure that it meets the needs of the community.
- Analyzing and comparing the performance of the AJFSFM to other similar journals. Are we doing better than others?
- Maintaining the editorial independence of the Journal's editors.
- Supporting journal editors to run their journals ethically and transparently.

The following is the list of AJFSFM Editorial Team members along with their areas of specialization

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The Managing Editor is responsible for coordinating the peer-review and publication processes and is the central point of contact among authors, reviewers, the editorial team, and the publisher.

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Terms and conditions of publication in the AJFSFM

The Journal welcomes original contributions from scholars, researchers, academics and forensic science practitioners from all over the world, under the following terms and conditions:

- Papers must be written in Arabic or English.
- Papers written in Arabic should have an abstract in English and vice versa.
- Each manuscript must be accompanied by a statement that the manuscript has not been submitted for publication elsewhere in Arabic or English, unless it was a conference paper. If it was a conference paper, then this should be noted together with a statement that



the paper has been completely re-written and that either:

- a) It was not originally copyrighted or
- b) That the author has cleared any necessary permission with the copyright owner if it has been previously copyrighted.
- Any previous publication of a paper in another language should also be disclosed.
- All papers are refereed, and the Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to refuse any manuscript, whether on invitation or otherwise, and to make suggestions and /or modifications before publication.
- The AJFSFM places great emphasis on the originality and quality of the papers published in this journal. Submitted manuscripts are first reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) who has the authority to reject the paper or refer it to one of the Associate Editors (AE) for further review. The AE evaluates the paper and decides whether it describes a sufficient body of work to support a major advance in a particular field. If the AE does not judge the manuscript to be suitable for the journal, alone or in consultation with other AEs, the manuscript may be rejected outright, without external peer review, with the reasons outlined in the decision letter sent to the author. If the AE does judge the manuscript to be suitable for the journal, it will then be subject to external peer review with the consent of EIC.

Peer Review Process

A full double-blind refereeing process is applied in which papers are sent to 3-4 experts for their peer review. The opinions of up to three experts are sought to evaluate the manuscript fully with respect to its significance, relevance, quality, and clarity. On receipt of all reviewer comments, and potentially further consultation amongst other editors, a decision is made by the AE and co-signed by the EIC, who will send the decision to the corresponding author. The whole process may take 2-3 months.

Possible decisions include:

- Accept
- Minor Revision
- Major Revision
- Reject

For papers which require changes, the same reviewers

will be used to ensure that the quality of the revised paper is acceptable.

- The AJFSFM shall furnish authors of accepted papers with proofs for the correction of printing errors. The proofs shall be returned within 14 calendar days of submittal. Reviewers and the AJFSFM shall not be held responsible for errors which are the result of authors' oversight.
- Manuscripts which have been accepted for publication will be freely available online. The AJFSFM is an open access journal and will strictly adhere to this policy as per the terms and conditions laid down in the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial-No Derivatives License. Use for commercial purposes, and alteration or transformation of the article in some derivative work is strictly prohibited.
- For detailed instructions about the preparation of manuscripts, online submission and author guidelines, kindly visit the AJFSFM website: <http://ajfsfm.nauss.edu.sa>. You may also visit <http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/> for more publication guidelines.

Initially, the AJFSFM shall be published biannually. However, when the number of scholarly articles received for publication increases then the editorial team may consider publishing it 3-4 times a year. In order to achieve this objective, the AJFSFM needs immense support and cooperation from researchers, scholars, the scientific community and forensic science practitioners, and must encourage them to submit their research work to be published in the Journal.

Finally, the AJFSFM office would like to extend its sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency, Dr. Jamaan Rashid ben Ragosh, the President of Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, for his guidance and immense support in facilitating the launch of the AJFSFM. The Journal is also grateful to the honorable panel of Associate Editors (Prof. Maciej J. Bogusz, Prof. Osama AL Madani and Prof. AbdulRahman A. Alwarthan), respected members of the Editorial & Advisory Board, and team of reviewers for their tremendous efforts in making this journal succeed and play a vital role in the development of forensic science education and research in the Arab world and internationally - our vision, mission and goal.

