

SUBJECT: CONCLUSION OF THE 5-YEARS' INQUIRY REPORT ON QUALITY OF THE CONTENT PUBLISHED BY THE JOURNAL 'ADVANCEMENTS IN LIFE SCIENCES' (2021-25)

Background

Advancements in Life Sciences was put "On-Hold" by Web of Science on quality concerns in March 2025. As a responsible body, editorial board of the journal took this development very seriously and convened an extraordinary meeting on 02 April 2025 to discuss this matter.

An inquiry into the content published by the journal since 2021 to date was warranted by the editorial board. Inquiry committee comprising of three (3) independent senior professors, the chief editor and 1 (one) expert of scholarly publishing workflow was formed with the mandate to carefully review, find lapses/errors, assign responsibility and advise corrective measures with full access to all the data available on the local systems and portals used in the editorial workflow. Here below is the list of information and inquiry indicators which were pursued by the team.

Information and Inquiry Indicators

- Manuscript ID and Manuscript Title
- Manuscript Type
- Scope Compliance
- Turnitin Similarity Index / AI Generated / Paraphrased Content
- No. of Peer Reviewers / Reports
- Processing Time (Months)
- Country of the Corresponding Author
- Published [in issue / volume]
- APCs Charged
- Citations Received till Date
- Type of Errors Found After Publishing / Other Discrepancies

- Misconduct Found if any
- Corrective Measures Advised / To be Taken
- Corrective Measures Taken / Correction Notice

Inquiry Reports

The inquiry team produced inquiry reports on three cohorts of the content i.e., 2024/25, 2022/23 and 2021 in the following general format. These are now part of the [public record](#).

- Preamble
- Process of inquiry
- Summary of Findings
- Manuscript Level Details of the Inquiry
- Additional Considerations by the Inquiry Team
- Recommendations by the Inquiry Team
- Supplementary Notes / Suggestions
- Way Forward
- About the Inquiry Team

Transparency

All findings, record of expressions of concern and corrective actions taken were regularly updated and made publicly available at the following live page maintained on the landing page of the website (as slider) <https://www.als-journal.com/attention-readers-and-authors/>. Journal indexing information pages were also updated to explicitly announce changes in the indexing information and linked to Master Journals List (MJL).

Summary of the Findings of the 5-years Inquiry

Results of inquiry reports of all the cohorts are available on the above-mentioned live webpage. Here below, in table 1, is the objective detail of all cohorts.

Cohort	Total Articles	Articles with Major Errors (Suspected Plagiarism / AI Generated Text / Data / Analysis etc.)	Articles with Minor Errors (Language / Metadata / Missing Record etc.)	Articles Corrected	Articles Retracted
2024/25	172	9	46	55	0
2022/23	216	25	16	29 (+1 article is still with authors for corrections)	11
2021	52*	0	7	7	0

Table 1: Cohort-wise finding of the quality issues and corrective measures taken. *This number may not be interpreted in exact comparison with the later cohorts as it only represents no. of articles from one year instead of two.

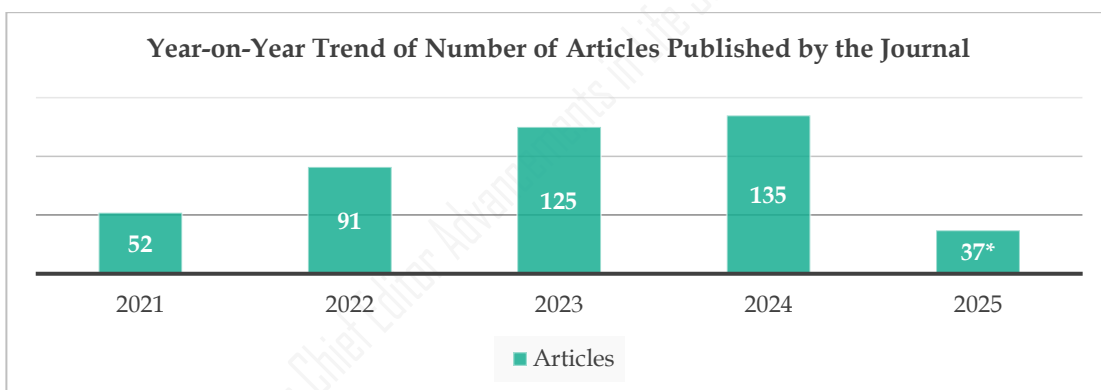


Figure 1: Number of articles / years published by the Journal since 2021. *Publishing for the year 2025 is not completed yet.

Exception

- ID 1990 (cohort 2022/23) - This article is still under the correction process. Authors have been responding but the editorial satisfaction is yet to be achieved.

Reforms Undertaken and Underway

- Professional training of doctoral students working as members of the editorial team (underway)



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDITOR

No. REF/WOS/07

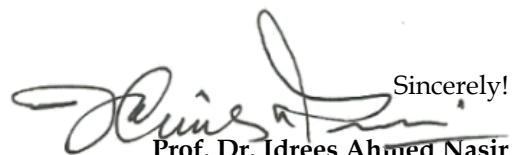
Dated. 31 July 2025

- Hiring of additional full-time officers in copyediting section (undertaken)
- Disclosure of reviewers' information with each published article W.E.F 2026
- Revamping of the journal website for better visibility of figures in HTML version (underway)
- Formulation of editorial policy on '*Use of AI for Text and Image Generation*' (undertaken)

Conclusion

This report marks the completion of the 5-years inquiry into concerns on quality raised by the Web of Science on content published by the journal. As per spirit of the norm that "scientific literature is self-correcting", we have thoroughly reviewed our content and taken the necessary actions including retractions and corrections as per COPE guidelines / industry standards, transparently. As chief of the editorial board, I take complete responsibility for the lapses that took place at different stages of editorial workflow. On behalf of the editorial board and the publisher, I extend a sincere apology to our readers and authors for this.

To prevent this from happening in future, existing quality checks have been strengthened and operational measures have been taken in addition to policy changes. The editorial board is appreciative of the regulatory oversight by the Web of Science and is strongly committed to upkeeping the quality standards required for scholarly publishing. We are also thankful to our readers for their continued trust.

 Sincerely!
Prof. Dr. Idrees Ahmed Nasir

Chief Editor

Advancements in Life Sciences

International Quarterly Journal of Biological Sciences

