The 5/95 Gap on the dissemination of mental health research:
The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) task force report on project with editors of low and middle income (LAMI) countries

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Abstract
The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Task Force and a small group previously convened by the WPA publications committee initiated three activities between 2006-2008 that aimed to respond to the need for greater support for psychiatry journals in LAMI countries. In a joint venture with participants from the Global Mental Health Movement the Task Force editors from LAMI countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America were contacted to identify potential journals to target for indexation (Medline and ISI). The committee analyzed the editors’ applications on the following criteria: a) geographical representativeness; b) affiliation to a professional mental health society; c) regular publication of at least 4 issues per year over the past few years; d) comprehensive national and international editorial boards; e) publication of original articles, or at least abstracts, in English; f) some level of current indexation; g) evidence of a good balance between original and review articles in publications; and h) a friendly access website. The committee received 26 applications (11 from Latin America, 7 from Central Europe, 4 from Asia and 4 from Africa), and selected 8 journals, 2 from each geographical area, on the basis of the overall scores obtained for the items mentioned, to participate in an editors meeting held in Prague in September 2008. The aims of the committee are twofold: a) to concentrate support for those selected journals; and b) to assist all LAMI mental health editors in improving the quality of their journals and fulfilling the requirements for full indexation. This report summarizes the procedures conducted by the committee, the assessment of the current non-indexed journals, and offers suggestions for further action.

Introduction
The existing level of mental health services and the resources devoted to mental health in low- and middle-income (LAMI) countries is far from that required. It is advisable that policymakers base their decisions on the best available local evidence to scale up effective and cost-effective treatments and preventive interventions for mental disorders. Therefore, region- or country-specific information can only be generated by local research. The dissemination of local research information by regional scientific journals is an important step towards influencing and guiding policies at both regional and national levels. Thus there was a need to have current information on mental health scientific journals around the globe.

The first step of the committee was to conduct a survey in both Medline and ISI Web of Science in order to identify journals in the field of psychiatry according to their country of origin. Two hundred and twenty-two indexed psychiatric journals were found. Of these, 213 originated from high-income countries and only nine (4.1%) were from...
middle-income countries; a) 5 from the European region, where there were two existing psychiatric journals indexed in both ISI/medline databases (Psychiatria Danubina from Croatia and the Zhurnal Nevrologii i Psikhiatri (from Russia), and three others indexed in Medline (the Psychiatria Hungarica, the Psychiatria Polska, and the Turkish Journal of Psychiatry); and b) 4 from Latin America, (2 from Brazil, The Arquivos de Neuropsiquiatria, and The Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria, the Vertex from Argentina indexed in the Medline, and the Mexican Salud Mental, indexed in the ISI). It was striking that none of the indexed journals found came either from the Asia or African regions. This confirmed the marked underrepresentation of low- and middle-income countries (LAMIC) in the psychiatric literature, which may reflect an overall low representation of LAMIC publications in databases of indexed journals.

A joint venture between a WPA task force and the participants from the Global Mental Health Movement contacted editors from low and middle income (LAMI) countries (Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America) to identify potential journals to target for indexation (Medline and ISI). A questionnaire was designed for the task (Appendix I), and the committee analyzed the editors’ applications on the following criteria: a) Geographical representativeness; b) Affiliation with a professional mental health society; c) Publication frequency i.e. to have published regularly approximately 4 issues per year in recent years; d) Editorial board i.e. to have a credible national and international editorial board; e) Language i.e. to have original articles in English, or at least abstracts in English; f) The level of regional and the present indexation in the main databases; g) The balance between original and review articles in recent publications; and h) To have a user friendly and free access of articles on their website. The aim of this report is to summarize the process undertaken by the committee, the quality assessment of the current non-indexed journals, and the suggestions made for further action.

1. The Latin American Region

There are four journals indexed in one of the Medline/ISI database: a) two from Brazil indexed in ISI/medline (The Arquivos de Neuropsiquiatria, and The Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria); b) the Vertex from Argentina indexed in the Medline; and the Mexican Salud Mental, indexed in the ISI.

As it can be seen in Table I, there were 11 applications from Latin America (four from Brazil, three from Argentina, two from Uruguay, one from Chile and one from Peru), and the committee decided to select two journals for the Prague meeting: a) the Jornal Brasileiro de Psiquiatria; and b) the Revista Chilena de Neuro-Psiquiatria. The Revista Chilena de Neuro-Psiquiatria was not able to attend the meeting.

| Table I: The distribution of journals from Latin America |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Name                            | Country             | Region            | Issues/year | since  |
| Foundation for the Investigation Interdisciplinary of Communication-FINTECO | Argentina           | Arg               | 2/4     | 2004  |
| Archivos de Neurologia, Neurocirugía y Neurropsiquiatria | Argentina           | LA                | 4       | 1996  |
| SINOPSIS | Argentina           | Arg               | 4       | 1984  |
| Jornal Brasileiro de Psiquiatria | Brazil              | Br                | 4       | 1930  |
| Revista de Psiquiatria do Rio Grande do Sul | Brazil              | South America     | 3       | 1979  |
| Revista Brasileira de Psicoterapia | Brazil              | South America     | 3       | 1999  |
| Revista Chilena de Neuro-psiquiatria | Chile               | South America     | 4       | 1947  |
| REVISTA DE PSQUIATRIAY SALUD MENTAL “HERMILIO VALDIZAN” Itinerario | Peru                | South America     | 1/2     | 2001  |
| REVISTA DE PSQUIATRIA | Uruguay             | South America     | 3       | 2004  |
| SIMD REVISTA ELETRÔNICA SAÚDE MENTAL ÁLCOOL E DrogaS | Brazil              | Brazil            | 2       | 1995  |

The Jornal Brasileiro de Psiquiatria

The Jornal Brasileiro de Psiquiatria (JBP) is the most established Brazilian scientific journal in the fields of Psychiatry and Mental Health. The JBP was founded in 1938, as the scientific journal of the Institute of Psychiatry of the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, which owns the copyright. The JBP has two editors-in-chief (Drs. Márcio Versiani and José Carlos Appolinario) and three assistant editors (Dr. Jérson Laks, Alexandre M Va lença, and Mauro V Mendlowicz), each one with his own field of specialty in Psychiatry. Assistant editors are dedicated to specific sections of the journal. The editorial boards of the JBP were modified five years ago to become more representative of modern trends in Psychiatry. It now features 12 members on the international editorial board and 32 on the national board. Both editorial boards comprise renowned researchers with a wide range of expertise in Psychiatry. The JBP publishes 4 regular issues every year (plus supplements). The articles may be written in Portuguese, English or Spanish. The abstracts are structured and are published in Portuguese and in English. The reference format adopted in JBP is the Vancouver system. In 2007, the rejection rate of the JBP was 30% and the average length of time for publication was 6 months. The JBP is indexed in the following databases: Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia (IBICT), Index Medicus Latino-Americano (LILACS), American Psychological Association (PsychoINFO), British Library Document Supply Center (BLDSC), Institute de l’Information Scientifique et Technique (INIST), Library of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), Ulrich’s International Periodicals Association (UIPA ), and Excerpta Medica (Embase).
The mission of the JBP can be summarized as follows: “The Brazilian Journal of Psychiatry is part of continuous medical education and updating programs aiming at the promotion of results of research in the field of psychiatry, from national and international institutions, with potential interest for investigation and clinical practice”. The audience of the JBP is composed of mental health professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurses, and occupational therapists), residents, and graduate and undergraduate students. The journal is financed through advertising, paid subscriptions, sponsored supplements, and sales of reprints. There is also an in-kind funding through the use of the physical and administrative infrastructure of Institute of Psychiatry of the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (e.g. office space, institutional website). Prospective authors are requested to declare that the study was conducted in accordance to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki and its amendments, including informed consent approved by a properly qualified ethics committee. They are also requested to disclose all possible sources of conflict of interest.

The JBP accepts advertisements from the pharmaceutical industry in the regular issues. Supplements can be sponsored by pharmaceutical companies under specific editorial guidelines. Electronic submission of manuscripts using the SciELO online submission system is now being implemented and is expected to be in full use by the Spring of 2009. Information for readers and authors and free access to abstracts and full articles are provided on the websites of the Institute of Psychiatry of the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and of the SciELO.

In summary, the journal has a fair number of good level original articles but still publishes some articles in the local language. It has a broad and active international board, and a good periodicity, with 4 issues per year. The journal might reconsider its mission and should look for a role different from the Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria. It is the view of the committee that a few amendments would make the journal ready for Pubmed and ISI submissions.

In Brazil, there are two other journals which in addition to the Jornal Brasileiro de Psiquiatria, have achieved standards leading to improved levels of indexation (Revista de Psiquiatria do Rio Grande do Sul, and Revista de Psiquiatria Clinica). Indeed, the Revista de Psiquiatria Clinica, whose editor is Prof. Wagner Gattaz, from the Institute of Psychiatry, University of Sao Paulo, has recently been incorporated by the Thomson/ISI database. The next candidate in Brazil is the Revista de Psiquiatria do Rio Grande do Sul. There are two further journals in Latin America, which have been incorporated by Scielo, showing they have certain minimum standards and the potential for improving indexation, the Revista Chilena de Neuro-Psiquiatria and the Revista Colombiana de Psiquiatria.

**Further Actions of the Committee in Brazil**

Helen Herrman and Jair Mari met with the editors of the main journals, in Brasilia during the Brazilian Congress of Psychiatry in October 2008 (Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria, Revista de Psiquiatria Clinica, Revista de Psiquiatria do Rio Grande do Sul, and Jornal Brasileiro de Psiquiatria). The focus of the discussion was to suggest that for a continental country like Brazil, it might be more appropriate to diversify the scope of the publications (as pointed out by Peter Tyrer in the Prague meeting).

The actual situation is still oriented to more regional accomplishments, where all journals target the same audience, comprising similar content of articles. By following this path, the country is missing out an opportunity for a better placement in the international scenario, for instance, by investing in different areas of knowledge, such as Dementia, Developmental Disorders, and Psychosis. Although it is not the intention of the committee to be prescriptive, the meeting went very well and proved to be a brainstorm for future developments of mental health publications in the country.

**2. The Central European Region**

In this European regional there are two psychiatric journals indexed in both ISI/Medline databases (Psychiatria Danubina from Croatia and the Zhurnal Nevrologii i Psikhiatrii from Russia), and three others are indexed in Medline: the Psychiatria Hungarica, the Psychiatria Polaka, and the Turkish Journal of Psychiatry. As it can be seen in Table II, there were seven applications from Central Europe (two from Serbia, two from Turkey, one from Bulgaria, one from Czech and Slovak Republic, and one from Croatia). The committee decided to select two journals for the meeting: a) the Journal of Czech

### Table II: The distribution of journals from Central Europe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Issues/year</th>
<th>since</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Czech and Slovak Psychiatry</td>
<td>Czech Republic + Slovak Republic</td>
<td>Czech Republic + Slovak Republic</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1904</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCHIATRY TODAY</td>
<td></td>
<td>CENTRAL EUROPE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgarian Journal of Psychiatry “Receptor”</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Central Europe</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGRAMI</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klinik Psychofarmakologi Bulteni (Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology)</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry Danubina</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Danube Region</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bosnia</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Moldova</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Roumania</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1962</td>
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African Journal of Psychiatry • February 2009
and Slovak Psychiatry; and b) the Turkish Klinik Psiyofarmakoloji Bulteni (Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology).

The Turkish Klinik Psiyofarmakoloji Bulteni (Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology)

This is an Istanbul-Turkey based Open Access Psychiatry, Psychopharmacology journal, regularly published since 1990. The Editor in Chief, is based in an office in Istanbul (same person since 1996), and there is a web based communication among the members of the editorial board. The Vancouver style reference system is adopted for articles published either in Turkish or English. Abstracts are both in Turkish and in English. A web site, including full text of articles, has been available since 2000.

The current status of indexation is as follows: a) Indexed and abstracted in Thomson Master list; b) SCI-E, International Pharmaceutical Abstracts; c) JCR/Science (2008); d) EMBASE; e) Scopus; f) CABS; g) Elsevier BIOBASE (2002); h) PsycINFO; i) PsycSCAN/Psychopharmacology (2002); j) EBSCOhost databases (2004); k) ProQuest databases (2004); l) British Library Direct (2004); m) DOAJ; n) Index Copernicus; o) Turkish Medical Index, and p) Turkish Psychiatry Index. Psychiatry and psychopharmacology journal.

The Primary focus of the journal is psychopharmacology and biological psychiatry. The major audience comprises psychiatrists, pharmacologists and other mental health professionals. It is a quarterly journal, including 10-12 articles per issue, 50-60% (5 to 7 per issue) being original research articles, 80-85% of articles are in Turkish. Submission is made via e-mail to the editor, though classic submission via postage is available. Online first system will be introduced in 2009 to avoid delays in publication.

Research articles on biological psychiatry and psychopharmacology are given priority, and review articles can be commissioned. The length for publishing the article is near 3 months for original research, and 6 to 9 months for case reports and review articles. The rejection rate was around 10% for the year 2007.

Pharmaceutical industry and revenues from society’s congresses finance the cost of the journal. A circulation of 3000 printed issues is posted to all psychiatrists, neurologists, libraries in Turkey, and major libraries in the world.

An online web edition is available for free to all. There have been no delays in publication whatsoever (including financing) for the last 10 years.

Major pharmaceutical companies support the journal with advertisement, but do not interfere with editorial or academic content. The editorial board is composed of academics from different psychiatric departments in Turkey as well as several editorial members from the USA, UK, and Israel. The journal was previously the official journal of Gulhane Medical School Haydarpasa Hospital Psychiatry Clinics, Istanbul. However, since 2004, it became the official journal of Turkish Association for Psychopharmacology. The journal submitted an application to Medline, but it was rejected in the same year that the Turkish Psychiatric Journal was granted its approval.

The journal is heading to Medline and PubMed, and is also pursuing the adoption of the DOI in cross reference system for online first service. In summary, this is a good journal from Turkey, with a very broad representativeness in the international board and a fair number of good original articles. The rejection rate is very low, and the journal would benefit to decrease the number of original articles per issue, improving quality and increasing rejection rates. With a few amendments it is the view of the committee that the journal is ready for Medline submission.

The Journal of Czech and Slovak Psychiatry

The journal is published mainly in the local language with abstracts in English. It publishes 8 issues per year, and it comprises few original articles in English. The journal would benefit from having fewer issues per year, to have more independence from the professional society, to improve international representativeness in the editorial board, and to increase the number of original articles in English. It is the view of the committee that the journal needs further work before being ready for submission to both Pubmed and the ISI. There are other local journals available in the Czech Republic, and a merging might increase the likelihood of having an indexed journal in the country. Psychiatria Danubina is already fully indexed and the committee invited the editor to present the current state of the journal.

3. The Asian Region

The search in Medline and the ISI did not reveal any psychiatric journal indexed from the Asian region in at least one of these two databases. As it can be seen in Table III, the committee received four applications from the Asian region (one from India, one from Malaysia, one from Pakistan and one from China). The committee selected the Indian Journal of Psychiatry and the Hong Kong Journal of Psychiatry.

The Indian Journal of Psychiatry

The journal promotes original research in psychiatry and the behavioural sciences. It has continued to remain in circulation for more than 50 years and the readership has continuously grown. IJP is possibly the oldest psychiatric journal in Asia and is the primary mental health academic journal for 1/6th of humanity. The journal provides immediate free access to all

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Issues/year</th>
<th>since</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indian Journal of Psychiatry</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>4 + suppl’s</td>
<td>1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysian Journal of Psychiatry</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hong Kong Journal of Psychiatry</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2000</td>
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the published articles. It does not charge the authors for submission, processing or publication of the articles. The Journal is in the forefront of the Mental Health Movement of India. The IJP is a journal comprising good quality articles, and a broad international board. The number of issues is 4 per year, and the number of original articles around 5 per issue. The rejection rate is 23% and the length of time for publication is 162 days. The journal is currently indexed in the following databases: a) SCOPUS; b) DOAJ; c) Index Copernicus; d) Health & Wellness Research Center; e) Health Reference Center Academic; f) InfoTrac One File; g) Expanded Academic ASAP; h) Genamics Journal Seek; i) Ulrich’s International Periodical Directory; j) EBSCO Publishing’s Electronic Databases; and k) Google Scholar. The journal needs to pursue a stable relationship with its professional society. In terms of content quality, it is the view of the committee that the journal is ready for submissions in both PubMed and ISI.

The Hong Kong Journal of Psychiatry
The Mission of the HKJPsych is to promote communication for presentation of original psychiatric research, and knowledge transfer for the advancement of psychiatry in Hong Kong SAR and the region. The Journal is an official publication of the Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists. It is circulated among fellows, member’s inceptors, and affiliates of the College, mental health professionals and other fields of medicine, both locally and abroad. The Journal is indexed in EMBASE, Excerpta Medica, PsypINFO, Index Copernicus, EBSCO, Thomson Gale and ProQuest. Full text is available online at: www.hkjpsych.com. The publisher is the Hong Kong Academy Press.

The journal publishes original articles, review papers, case reports, book reviews, letters to the editor and first person accounts. The Journal circulates quarterly (4 issues/year) with full text in English and Chinese with English abstracts. Submission of articles is available at admin@hkpsych.com.

There are three to four original articles per issue and rejection rate is around 28%. The aim is to shorten the period from submission to publication to a length of between 6 and 9 months. The editorial assistant will be responsible for monitoring this process. All submissions will be peer reviewed by 2 independent reviewers. Accepted manuscripts will be sent to the publisher after transfer of copyright is completed.

To improve indexation, the editorial board aims to pursue the following steps: a) to encourage submission by expanding mailing lists; b) to establish a group of experienced reviewers to give constructive comments; and c) to actively solicit submission from different platforms. Moreover, the editorial board is committed to streamline the publication logistics by speedy review and revision cycle, optimizing language editing and solicit financial support to ensure sustainability.

It is the view of the committee that this journal has a good level editorial board; it is publishing fairly good original articles, and is aware of the obstacles ahead to improve quality. It fulfills all the criteria for being indexed in the Medline/ISI databases.

The Malaysian Journal of Psychiatry and the Journal of Pakistan Psychiatric Society have only 2 issues per year, though with a good number of original articles. A more active role to increase the number of original articles and to accomplish 4 issues per year could be an important step for future indexation of these two promising journals. After the Prague meeting the committee received the application of a South Korean journal, the Psychiatry Investigation. The journal was founded in 2003, and covers the whole range of psychiatry and neuroscience. Both basic and clinical contributions are encouraged from all disciplines and research areas, as well as research related to cross cultural psychiatry and ethnic issues in psychiatry. The journal publishes 4 issues per year and comprises approximately 10 original articles per issue.

4. The African region
The search in Medline and the ISI did not reveal any psychiatric journal indexed from the African region in at least one of these two databases. The committee received four applications from the African region (two from Egypt, one from South Africa, and one from Nigeria), as shown in Table IV. The committee decided to select the African Journal of Psychiatry, and the Egyptian Current Psychiatry. As the African Journal of Psychiatry declined the invitation (due to the Editor not being available for the meeting), it was replaced by the Nigerian Journal of Psychiatry.

Current Psychiatry (Egypt)
The journal highlights scientific research and mental health services in Egypt and the Middle East. The audience includes psychiatrists and mental health professionals, including all candidates for the degree of diploma, masters and doctorate in Psychiatry. The journal was founded in 1993 with 2 editions per year. It is currently published 3 times per year, and 80% of the articles are original research. Articles are written in English with an abstract in Arabic though very few articles are written in Arabic. The rejection rate is nearly 40%. Journals are distributed for free in Egypt. The journal receives funds from the pharmaceutical industry through advertising and also receives a grant from the Institute of Psychiatry. The journal has been published regularly for the past 15 years.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Issues/year</th>
<th>since</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Egyptian Journal of Psychiatry</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>North Africa</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Psychiatry</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>North Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1994</td>
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</table>
This journal is published regularly, though it might decrease the number of articles per edition whilst increasing the number of issues to 4 per year. It needs to develop a website and improve web visibility. It may expand the international board so as to keep improving local and international visibility. It is our view that with a few amendments the journal would be ready for Pubmed submission.

The Nigerian Journal of Psychiatry
The mission of the NJP is to serve as a training tool for psychiatrists and other mental health professional trainees in Nigeria. It also aims to encourage training in research methodology and report writing and to be a means for authors to disseminate their findings. It attempts to capture a wide audience by sending free copies not only to medical libraries but as many university libraries as possible although there are a lot of constraints caused by expensive and unreliable postal services. The journal is still entirely funded by the Association of Psychiatrists APN, and it is having difficulty in getting enough articles for each issue. Circulating each issue within and outside Nigeria is limited. Outright rejection of articles is rare as reviewers are encouraged to strive to make articles as publishable as possible by suggestions and helping with references. Many authors send their papers to journals with better impact factors.

This is an incipient journal which has improved in the last year, but needs to take a number of steps: a) to improve geographical representativeness; b) to maintain periodicity and increase the number of original articles; c) to improve local and international representativeness in the editorial board; and d) to increase the number of original articles. Furthermore, it was noted that Nigeria is a country with a relatively small number of mental health professionals and the journal has infrastructure problems in its financing and administration. Networking with psychiatrists of Nigerian origin currently residing in western societies is highly recommended. The conclusion is that much work has to be done before of going to Medline and/or the ISI databases.

The African Journal of Psychiatry is well placed, has a broad international board, good original articles written in English, and is awaiting the outcome of a Medline application. It is the view of the committee that the African Journal of Psychiatry is ready for the ISI and Medline submissions.

The Website Development
Christian Kieling is developing a directory of all available mental health and psychiatric journals around the globe linked to the WPA website, as a basis for advocacy and action. The database has already been established with the material assembled by a forthcoming paper in World Psychiatry (Kieling et al 2008; in press), and with the cooperation of several WPA zonal representatives. This survey, describes the worldwide distribution of indexed psychiatric journals in both Medline and ISI Web of Science databases. As of mid-2007, 222 indexed psychiatric journals were found: there were 209 journals indexed in Medline and 175 in ISI (there is, of course, some degree of overlap between these two databases). Of these, 213 originated from high-income countries and only nine (4.1%) from middle-income countries. None were found in low-income countries. In the next few months, the complete database will be available at the new WPA website; and the committee is currently working on the plan for its maintenance and periodic update.

Main Conclusions of the Committee:
• There are several journals ready to apply for indexing with Medline and PubMed. An Expert Panel formed from the Task Force (Jair Mari, Peter Tyrer, Christian Kieling) will offer consultation and assistance as requested to encourage successful applications as soon as possible. Other journals will also, according to their interests and requests, be encouraged and assisted to make changes over a longer time period.
• It is important to sustain a WPA website comprising all journals which disseminate research findings in mental health issues.
• The Task Force will carry on its mission to provide continuous supervision to encourage submissions for Medline applications of those journals that accomplished the criteria for quality (see questionnaire attached in the Appendix 1).
• The Task Force will aim to develop courses for training editors and peer reviewers from LAMI countries, during WPA congress and events.

General Recommendations for Editors:
a) Their editorial board should be as international as possible, i.e., by inviting researchers from other countries to serve on review and editorial panels;
b) To select locally those research oriented trained mental health professionals to expand the editorial boards on the basis of research oriented components;
c) To develop twinning or pairing arrangements with established journals;
d) To organize workshops for reviewers and editors;
e) To publish abstracts/summaries/articles in more than one language;
f) To maintain a balance between research papers and review articles for meeting needs of practitioners;
g) At a continental level to achieve diversification of the publications to avoid overlap and competing with the same audience;
h) To promote merging of journals where local publications prevail;
i) To participate in developing a curriculum for editors and people interested in preparing to be editors, and working on editorial staff;
j) To involve junior doctors in the editorial process of the journal;
k) To provide on-line submission, now perceived as advantage;
l) To adopt the Vancouver system of referencing, now becoming universal;
m) To generate research links with researchers in the HIC settings and thereby improve quality of research papers;
n) To promote South-South collaboration to a much greater degree (along the lines of the WPA initiative).

Bibliography
• Bressan RA, Miguel EC, Mari JJ et al. We have reached the ISI! Rev Bras Psiquiatr 2005;27:171.
Appendix I: Checklist Questionnaire for Assessing Quality of Scientific Journals

O = No 1 = Yes

Scoring System

• Did the editor publish more than 5 publications in the Pubmed in the last 5 years?

• Do regional participants of the editorial board achieve at least one publication per year in the Pubmed in the last three years? (Select randomly 5 participants and Rate 1 if percentage above 80%)

• Does the editorial board comprise more than five international participants?

• Do the international participants have more than three pubmed papers in the last three years? (Select randomly 5 participants and Rate 1 if percentage above 80%)

• Does the journal publish more than 4 issues per year?

• Does the journal have more than 5 original papers per issue?

• In the last three issues of the journal, are more than 50% papers published in English?

• Do more than 50% of the articles belong to an institution outside the hosted journal?

• Are the articles peer reviewed per at least two referees?

• Is the journal currently indexed in PsycINFO, Embase or Scopus? (Rate 1 if at least one indexed database).

Qualitative Assessment:

Administration and Infrastructure:

• Does the journal handle ethics in a fair way?

• Does the journal have a sustainable financial mechanism to bring stability?

• Does the format comply with the Vancouver system?

• Is the journal available on-line free of charge?

• Is the submission handled on-line?

• Is the rejection rate for the previous year above 30%?

• Is there an own administration for the journal?

• Is there a surveillance system to monitor trends in the citing of the journal?


