

JGLD, the 30-years Anniversary

The present issue of the *Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases* (JGLD) inaugurates the 30th volume of the journal. As the Founding Editor-in-chief, I am happy to have been invited to write an editorial in order to mark the event.

The journal was launched (under the title *Rom J Gastroenterol*, RJGE) in 1992, when it became clear that the development of gastroenterology in Romania required a dedicated journal. Since then, the journal has grown rapidly both in content and scope.

As noted on past JGLD events or anniversaries, along the way, a number of courageous and successful decisions have been taken, always being aware of the needs of a Romanian gastroenterology journal: to expand its readership, authorship and reviewer base worldwide to include the international community. The decisions were, first of all, to publish the journal in English, then to ensure the quality of the submitting manuscripts by obtaining their evaluation by international peer-reviewers. Later, the title of the journal was changed to the *Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases*. All these endeavors have greatly enhanced the stature of the journal and led to its acceptance in major international databases - in 2007 also in the ISI/Clarivate Analytics, Science Citation Index Expanding (SCIE). In 2015, the journal was awarded the Elsevier Scopus Journal Excellence Award Romania as the best scientific journal in Romania.

The journal managed to progressively increase the profile of Romanian gastroenterology. On its website (www.jgld.ro) all published articles have been freely accessible by linking directly from Pubmed. After indexing in the Clarivate Analytics database, 2 of the top 10 (and 7 of the top 20, respectively) of the most cited papers came from Romania. I have mentioned below the most recent figures regarding the journal's international position. The latest impact factor (2019) in the Clarivate Analytics (SCIE) is 2.351; for the 8th consecutive year JGLD has been placed first among the Romanian journals in this database; in the SCImago Journals database, JGLD ranks on place 42 (Q1) out of all 2,220 journals published in Eastern Europe, and 70 (Q2) out of the 145 Gastroenterology journals in the region.

A new Editorial Board has led JGLD since 2018, contributing importantly to this position. The former Associate Editor, Professor Dan L. Dumitrascu, is today the Editor-in-chief, and the Assistant Editor, Lidia Munteanu (Ciobanu) has become the Associate Editor. Three young and enthusiastic Assistant Editors joined the board - Teodora Blaga-Surdea, Olga Orasan, and Abdulrahman Ismaiel. The new team has increased the number and the countries of origin of the published articles, always keeping an important place for the Romanian authors. The Biostatistical Consultant, Daniel Leucuta, has renewed and keeps the journal website updated, which now includes also ahead-of-print articles. The International Editorial Committee has been enlarged by adding reputable international personalities who contributed to the journal.

The Gastroenterology and Hepatology fields are developing fast, so there is much work ahead. Well established journals, such as JGLD, with a good IF and not requiring processing charges from the authors, are expected to receive more and more manuscripts from all over the world due to the overall pressure of *publish or perish*. The central core of scientific publication remains the rigorous independent peer review, but the number of scientific personalities to act as reviewers is relatively limited in contrast to the increasing number of authors trying to publish their studies. For the editorial team, which has worked on a voluntary basis since the initiation of the journal, it will be a major effort to read and select these manuscripts, and to find evaluators. If a publication fee will be required in the future for ensuring free access to the articles, it is certainly not the readers of the articles who will pay it, but their authors.

It is difficult to envisage how JGLD will look in the years to come. However, I am confident that the editorial team will further develop the journal by increasing its diffusion and impact factor, and by consolidating it as one of the reference publications in the specialty.

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