

EUROMEDITERRANEAN BIOMEDICAL JOURNAL: THE RENEWED MANUSCRIPT LAYOUT AND WEB RENDERING FORESHADOW FURTHER JOURNAL IMPROVEMENT.

*Claudio Costantino*¹, *Salvatore Moscadini*², *Giuseppe Puccio*³, *Francesco Cappello*⁴, *Walter Mazzucco*⁵

1. Executive Editor, EuroMediterranean Biomedical Journal, Department of Science for Health Promotion and Mother and Child Care “G. D’Alessandro”, University of Palermo, Italy

2. Managing Editor, EuroMediterranean Biomedical Journal, Palermo, Italy

3. Deputy Editor, EuroMediterranean Biomedical Journal, Department of Science for Health Promotion and Mother and Child Care “G. D’Alessandro”, University of Palermo, Italy

4. Executive editor, EuroMediterranean Biomedical Journal, Department of Experimental Biomedicine and Clinical Neuroscience, University of Palermo, Italy

5. Chairman, EuroMediterranean Biomedical Journal, Department of Science for Health Promotion and Mother and Child Care “G. D’Alessandro”, University of Palermo, Italy

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ABSTRACT

In January 2006, a new journal, Capsula Eburnea, was born into the Italian scientific publishing scene with the initial goal of creating, at the same time, “an open scientific forum and a blog”, based on the premise that “in medicine, nothing should be considered stable, immutable or unsusceptible to critical review at any time, by any scientist”. The Editorial Team progressively sought to improve the quality of the manuscripts published, introducing the requirement for all articles to be written in English, and changed the Journal’s name to EuroMediterranean Biomedical Journal in 2012. Over the last five years, approximately 125 articles by young doctors (including original articles, reviews, commentaries, notes, and abstract books) have been published. The editorial board are confident that the new publishing layout and the renewed web-portal of the journal, introduced in this editorial, represent an essential upgrade after over 10 years of editorial activity, and that these improvements will be appreciated by our authors and, especially, our readers.

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Editorial

In January 2006, a new journal, Capsula Eburnea, was born into the Italian scientific publishing scene with the initial goal of creating, at the same time, “an open scientific forum and a blog”, based on the premise that “in medicine, nothing should be considered stable, immutable or unsusceptible to critical review at any time, by any scientist” [1].

From the late 2009, the journal has undergone extensive changes, becoming indexed in the main scientific search engines (Scopus, Directory of Open Access Journal, Google Scholar, Ulrich Periodical Directory), and renewing its Editorial Team through role reassignment (introducing a Chairman, Deputy Editors, Executive Editors and Managing Editors), and Editorial Board extension (through a selection based on the candidates’ CVs) to up to 40 young doctors with proven scientific experience from 15 countries around the world [1].

The journal has progressively encouraged the publication of articles in English, through the introduction of an endorsed English translation service provided by native English-speaking translators, offering discounted prices and fast turnaround times. This service became mandatory for all peer-reviewed articles accepted by the Journal in 2011, in order to ensure high linguistic standards of the published articles [1]. At the same time, the Editorial Board unanimously decreed to change the name of the journal to “EuroMediterranean Biomedical Journal for young doctors (formerly: Capsula Eburnea)” from January 2012, and to ensure full open access to all manuscripts (including the archives of Capsula Eburnea) [1].

In an editorial published in January 2014, the Editorial Team summarized the first two years of activity of the Journal (48 scientific articles, including 17 original articles, 14 reviews, 13 case reports, two technical reports, two commentaries and one edition of Conference Proceedings) [1-18].

The present editorial was drafted to illustrate the progress of the Journal in the first five years of activity (2012-2016), to introduce the renewed web rendering of the EMBJ to our readers. During these five years, the EMBJ published 109 scientific articles (55 original articles, 24 case reports, 23 reviews, 3 technical reports, 2 commentaries, 1 letter to the editor and 1 editorial), and seven editions of young physicians’ Conference Proceedings. Rejected manuscripts accounted for 38.5% of submissions overall (range 34%-42%), and an increased ratio of manuscripts from European or extra-European authors were published (accounting for around 15% of all published articles during the last three years) [19-34]. The prevailing subject fields of manuscripts published in our journal from 2014 to 2016 were: plastic surgery (both oncologic and reconstructive fields), general surgery, legal medicine and occupational hygiene and safety, otolaryngology, pharmacology, physiology and osteoarticular and rehabilitative issues [35-65]. Additionally, public health obviously continues to be a theme of primary interest to the members of the Editorial Board, just like pediatric and anatomic issues [66-74]. Finally, over the past three years, the EMBJ has also dealt with issues of interest to the fields of radiology, nephrology and thoracic surgery [75-79].

In conclusion, we believe that so far, our editorial adventure has been very successful, having achieved our initial goals, and that the quality of the manuscripts published in the Journal has significantly improved over the years, also thanks to the growing international interest and participation. We also feel that it is fitting to maintain the target population of young doctors, in the process of drafting their first scientific articles in full autonomy and academic freedom, since we firmly believe that the scientific community should be especially welcoming to initiatives by young researchers. Therefore, the Journal will maintain its open access policy also in the future. We are confident that the new publishing layout and the renewed web-portal of the Journal represent an essential upgrade after over 10 years of editorial activity, and that these improvements will be appreciated by our authors and, especially, our readers.

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