An Excellence Award for the *Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases*

Five years after their last message to the readers, announcing the first Thomson-Reuters Impact Factor (IF) received by their journal, the Editors believe it is time for a new message. There are several good reasons for this, and the most important are that the *Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases* has received its highest Thomson Reuters 2014 IF and, very recently, the Elsevier Scopus Journal Excellence Award Romania 2015.

Every author would like to have his manuscript published in a journal indexed by Thomson Reuters (former ISI). To be an indexed journal is important, but this is not sufficient for many: the journal should have an IF, and this should be high. The *J Gastrointestin Liver Dis* has received this year the highest IF since the start of its indexing: 2.202. With this IF, the journal ranks 1st among the scientific journals in Romania and ranks 48 among the 76 gastroenterology/ hepatology journals indexed by Thomson Reuters. We believe it is a good position, considering the strong competition in the field. We still cannot compete with the prominent journals in the category, but we are working towards this.

A reasonably high IF brings more submissions to a journal. This year, about 940 manuscripts from all over the world were submitted to the journal. The number of articles published and the size of the journal have increased. With more submissions, the rejection rate has also increased (about 80%, higher for case reports) due to the still limited space within the journal and moreover, because of the journal policy regarding the selection for publication of the most interesting manuscripts, which bring originality to specific fields. The quality of editing and printing of the journal has improved, making the journal a competitive product in this aspect as well.

In 2013, the journal became a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), subscribing to the Committee principles. In 2014, it became a member of the Publishers International Linking Association, Inc. (PILA), thus becoming a part of the CrossRef®. A Digital Identifier is assigned to all original articles published in the journal and the published articles are now cross-linked to a large number of publications on the Internet, allowing an easier access and a better visibility for the journal. Finally, some changes have been operated on the journal website (www.jgld.ro) for a quicker accessibility and easier download of articles on mobile phones and tablets.

In the world’s largest database Elsevier Scopus, the *J Gastrointestin Liver Dis* ranks 57 out of 151 gastroenterology journals. Considering all medical journals, the journal is ranked 1st place in Romania and 6th (out of 351 journals) in Eastern Europe. The most recent mark of appreciation for the Journal came from Elsevier Scopus. The Scopus Awards were brought for the first time to Romania in 2015, aiming to recognize outstanding research institutions and scientific journals for their excellence. The *J Gastrointestin Liver Dis* was declared the winner of the Elsevier Scopus Journal Excellence Award Romania 2015.

All these achievements have been possible due to the dedicated support of the Editorial Office team. The librarians of the Medical Library of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj, Ioana Robu and Sally Wood-Lamont have also made an important contribution. As English-language editor of our journal, Mrs. Wood-Lamont gave us confidence in the clarity of the written English, so important for the readers, and promoted the journal among international librarians. The members of the Editorial Boards assisted with manuscript evaluation and with journal promotion. And the many Reviewers who dedicated their time and expertise for evaluating the submitted manuscripts offered a major contribution to the rising quality of the journal (their List is published in this issue).

Over the next years, our objective is to raise the number of published items, to maintain and improve their quality, and eventually, increase the number of issues per year. With these developments, we would like to elevate the journal’s position among the specialty journals and, implicitly, Romania’s position in the hierarchy of countries ranked by published and cited papers.

Monica Acalovschi
Editor-in-chief

*J Gastrointestin Liver Dis*