

JGLD Has Got its First Impact Factor

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Four years after changing the journal name in order to adapt to its international development (formerly it was called the *Romanian Journal of Gastroenterology*) and two years after their last message to the readers, announcing the indexing of the journal by ISI/Thomson Reuters [1], the Editors believe it is time for a new message. And they have a good reason for this: the *Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases* (JGLD) has received its first Impact Factor.

Evidently, every editor wants his journal to be known by the entire medical community. Aware that the most prestigious database is ISI Thomson Reuters, Philadelphia, PA, USA, every editor would like his/her journal indexed by them. In addition, every author would like to have his manuscript published in an ISI indexed journal. To be indexed is important, but this is not sufficient: the journal should have an Impact Factor and it should be high. As the universally accepted index for evaluating the success of a biomedical journal, the Impact Factor can be used to compare related specialist journals [2]. With an Impact Factor of 1.265 for the year 2009, the JGLD ranks 51 among 65 journals in the Subjects' category Gastroenterology & Hepatology [3]. This might not be impressive, but as a first Impact Factor, it is promising. Table I shows the position of the JGLD on the list of 29 journals of gastroenterology, as it has been published by the major website of the specialty, www.gastrohep.com.

The establishment of a scientific Romanian journal was considered to be one of several important measures by which the task of developing gastroenterology in Romania as a scientific field could be accomplished. The JGLD was initiated in 1992 as an English-written journal [4]. We were aware at that time that publications in the English language are more readily considered by internal or external academic

Table I. Impact Factors of Gastroenterology journals (Hepatology journals not included) (www.gastrohep.com)

Gastroenterology Journals	Impact factor
Gastroenterology	12.9
Gut	9.4
The American Journal of Gastroenterology	6.0
Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology	5.6
Inflammatory Bowel Diseases	4.6
Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics	4.4
Current Opinion in Gastroenterology	4.3
Neurogastroenterology and Motility	3.6
American Journal of Physiology - Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology	3.3
Journal of Gastroenterology	2.9
Pancreas	2.7
Gastroenterology Clinics of North America	2.6
Diseases of the Colon & Rectum	2.5
Colorectal Disease	2.4
Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology	2.3
Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology	2.2
Pancreatology	2.2
International Journal of Colorectal Disease	2.1
Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology	2.1
Digestive Diseases and Sciences	1.8
Digestion	1.8
European Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology	1.7
Diseases of the Esophagus	1.5
Digestive Diseases	1.5
The Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology	1.4
Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases	1.3
Acta Gastro-Enterologica	1.0
Gastroenterologie Clinique et Biologique	0.9

reviewers when ranking persons and departments. At the same time, a balance was required in medical education and training in our country and we wanted to attract papers and reviews from abroad.

Initially, Romanian papers represented more than 70 per cent of the papers published. Over the years, the journal has grown much in stature and has become truly an international journal. It has expanded in terms of the geographic diversity of submitted manuscripts (see Table II for the most cited papers published in 2008-2009), editorial committee members and peer-reviewers. The number of pages has increased constantly in the last years, from 440 in 2005 to 532 in 2009. The number of manuscripts handled annually in the same interval increased from 79 to 390, the number of articles published from 61 to 150 and the international peer-reviewers who accepted to evaluate the manuscripts, from 32 to 144. With more submissions, the rejection rate has increased due to the limited space within the journal and to the fact that only the most interesting manuscripts were selected for publication. We now only accept about 1 in 3-4 original studies and 1 in 12-14 case reports. Owing to a continuing increase in submissions, that acceptance percentage will decrease even more this year.

What are the present threats and challenges of the Journal?

Firstly, a new arrangement was made in 2009 with the Romanian National Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology to establish the journal as a formal membership journal. The model has been adopted by a large number of other scientific journals and has increased journal distribution. Being an English-written journal, JGLD was not easily accepted by the Romanian medical community as a membership journal. Our aim is now to deliver an exciting,

educational and comprehensive journal. We will maintain diversity of the papers, so that there should always be "something for everybody" to read. This measure might also be achieved by accepting and publishing more manuscripts but we consider, however, that our readers prefer quality to quantity. We therefore do not intend to increase the size of the annual volume very much.

Secondly, there are already a large number of gastroenterology & hepatology journals and the size of the market is not infinite. This raises considerably the competition in the field of publication. For the time being we cannot compete with prominent journals in our category, but we are working on it. Obtaining an Impact Factor places us in a "good news – bad news" situation: the overall journal quality (and measurement indices such as the ISI Impact Factor) will improve at the cost of rejecting some good papers that might have been acceptable only a year or two ago, and therefore disappointing those authors.

The expectations of the authors are well established. In most cases, authors are eager to receive a quick and high-quality evaluation of the manuscripts, so we will further try to process manuscripts as rapidly as possible. In addition to an efficient editorial procedure, authors are of course interested in the readership: how many will read their paper, and will their article be cited? There is evidence that papers freely available online are more often read and cited than those behind a subscription barrier [5]. Since 2004, the full text of the JGLD articles in PDF format has become freely accessible online, so that the journal articles can be

Table II. The most cited 10 papers published by the JGLD in 2007-2008 (downloaded from ISI Web of KnowledgeSM on September 1, 2010). Note that 4 of the articles were written by Romanian authors.

Title of the paper	Times cited
Extrahepatic manifestations of chronic HCV infection. Author(s): Galossi A, Guarisco R, Bellis L, et al. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 16 Issue 1, 65-73, 2007	25
The changing epidemiology of viral hepatitis B in Iran. Author(s): Alavian SM, Fallahian F, Lankarani KB. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 16 Issue 4, 403-406, 2007	25
Complications related to percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tubes. A comprehensive clinical review. Author(s): Schrag SP, Sharma R, Jaik NP, et al. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 16 Issue 4, 407-418, 2007	20
Achalasia: an overview of diagnosis and treatment. Author(s): Pohl D, Tutuian R. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 16 Issue 3, 297-303, 2007	18
Therapeutic options in non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). Are all agents alike? Results of a preliminary study. Author(s): Georgescu EF, Georgescu M. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 16 Issue 1, 39-46, 2007	17
Update on the management of refractory coeliac disease. Author(s): Al-toma A, Verbeek WHM, Mulder CJJ. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 16 Issue 1, 57-63, 2007	15
Analysis of histopathological changes that influence liver stiffness in chronic hepatitis C. Results from a cohort of 324 patients. Author(s): Lupșor M, Badea R, Stefanescu H, et al. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 17 Issue 2, 155-163, 2008	14
HELLP syndrome - a multisystemic disorder. Author(s): Mișu D, Costin N, Mișu CM, et al. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 16 Issue 4, 419-424, 2007	14
Efficacy, tolerability and predictive factors for early and sustained virologic response in patients treated with weight-based dosing regimen of PegIFN alpha-2b and ribavirin in real-life healthcare setting. Author(s): Gheorghe L, Iacob S, Sporea I, et al. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 16 Issue 1, 23-29, 2007	11
Celiac artery compression syndrome: Successful utilization of robotic-assisted laparoscopic approach. Author(s): Jaik NP, Stawicki SP, Weger NS, et al. J GASTROINTESTIN LIVER DIS Vol 16 Issue 1, 93-96, 2007	10

downloaded by readers directly from PubMed at no cost. This approach has increased the visibility of the authors on the Internet, and has led to a higher citation rate and a further development of the journal. The home page of the JGLD on the world wide web (<http://www.jgld.ro>) has been well accepted and is frequently visited (see the website Map Overlay on the following page).

In the future, the journal will continue to focus on original research of clinical relevance in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology. We welcome review articles, the correspondence column will be expanded, guidelines will be reproduced (see this issue, pages 311-318) and experts will be invited to comment on papers of controversy or special interest. We welcome all of you to contribute to the further enhancement of the international

standard of the journal by submitting manuscripts with relevance in the broad field of digestive diseases.

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