

## EUROMEDITERRANEAN BIOMEDICAL JOURNAL: THE RENEWED JOURNAL FOR YOUNG DOCTORS AIMS EVEN HIGHER

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### SUMMARY

In January 2006, a new journal, Capsula Eburnea, was born in the Italian scientific publishing scene, with the initial goal of creating, at the same time, “an open scientific forum and a blog”. Until December 2009, the vast majority of manuscripts was still published in Italian, restricting the number of readers.

From the end of 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 with a role reassignment and expanding the Editorial Board to up to 40 young doctors with proven scientific experience from 15 countries around the world, working as researchers, PhD students, senior medical staff, research fellows or doctors in specialist training.

Finally, the journal has progressively encouraged the publication of articles in English, through an endorsed English translation service provided by native English speaking translators. This service became mandatory for all peer-reviewed articles accepted by the Journal in 2011.

At the same time, the Editorial Board unanimously decreed to change the name of the journal into “Euromediterranean Biomedical Journal for young doctors (formerly: Capsula Eburnea)” from January 2012.

Today, the journal is fully open access (including the archives of Capsula Eburnea) with the possibility to download articles for free, and the publication process involves a blind peer review of each article by at least two scientists. During its first two years of activity, the Euromediterranean Biomedical Journal (EMBJ) published 48 scientific articles (17 original articles, 14 reviews, 13 case report, two technical reports and two commentaries) and one edition of Conference Proceedings.

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In January 2006, a new journal, *Capsula Eburnea*, was born in 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].

In particular, in that occasion, in the European context and within the relevant field, no adequate means existed to encourage the growth and exchange of ideas aimed exclusively at young doctors, and the creation of *Capsula Eburnea* (digitized since the very first issue) intended to fill this precise scientific gap.

The name, derived from the historical writings of Western Medicine from the early Christian centuries, brought good luck to the journal that was created under the auspices and scientific coordination of the Italian Secretariat of Young Doctors (S.I.G.M.) [2].

Following the first year operation, and the publication of the first 13 scientific articles (one letter to the editors, one *elzevirian* article, one exegesis, two commentaries, one original article and seven reviews) with a limited editorial team (18 Italian doctors), due to the growing popularity of the journal and the ever-increasing number of articles submitted, the number of articles published was increased to up to 19 per year from 2007 to 2009, with a concurrent increase in rejection rates. Until December 2009, the vast majority of manuscripts was still published in Italian, restricting the number of readers.

From the end of 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 with a role reassignment (introducing a Chairman, Deputy Editors, Executive Editors and Managing Editors), and expanding the Editorial Board (through a selection based on the candidates' CVs) to up to 40 young doctors with proven scientific experience from 15 countries around the world, working as researchers, PhD students, senior medical staff, research fellows or doctors in specialist training [3].

Furthermore, we have continued to create and apply new policies to boost the scien-

tific growth of the journal, increasing the number of original articles accepted, introducing a more rigorous selection process for reviews and implementing new article formats (technical and therapeutic reports, case reports and commentaries).

Finally, the journal has progressively encouraged the publication of articles in English, through 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 [4]. Moreover, in 2011, the number of DOIs available for the articles published in the Journal was standardized to 25 per year.

At the same time, the Editorial Board unanimously decreed to change the name of the journal into “*Euromediterranean Biomedical Journal for young doctors*” (formerly: *Capsula Eburnea*)” from January 2012. Concurrently, a new internet portal with simplified access for authors and readers, and revised author guidelines were introduced [5, 6]. Furthermore, fundamental policies on Publication ethics and Malpractice Statements, Conflict of interest, Informed consent and Anti-plagiarism were established [7-10].

Today, the journal is fully open access (including the archives of *Capsula Eburnea*) with the possibility to download articles for free, and the publication process involves a blind peer review of each article by at least two scientists. During its first two years of activity, the *Euromediterranean Biomedical Journal* (EMBJ) published 48 scientific articles (17 original articles, 14 reviews, 13 case report, two technical reports and two commentaries) and one edition of Conference Proceedings. The prevailing scientific fields were plastic and reconstructive surgery of both oncologic and reconstructive nature, addressed in one original article, four case reports and two reviews [11-17]. Other popular subjects included osteoarticular and rehabilitative issues, addressed by the EMBJ in three original articles, one case report and four reviews [18-25]. Public Health is obviously a theme considered extremely important by the members of the Editorial Board, and articles published on this subject between 2012 and 2013 comprised three original articles and one

review [26-29].

Additionally, over the past two years EMBJ has dealt with issues of interest to the fields of legal medicine and occupational hygiene and safety through the publication of one original article, five case reports and four reviews [30-39]. Diagnostic imaging within the cardiologic and oncologic disciplines was also addressed (by two technical reports, two original articles and one case report) [40-44]. Neurologic and neuropsychiatric topics were extensively discussed in one original article, two case reports, two reviews and one commentary [45-50]. Two original articles and one review were published on the subject of oncology [51-53]. Furthermore, one original article discussed topics related to surgery, while pediatrics was addressed in another original article and a collection of papers presented at a conference for Italian doctors in specialist training in pediatrics and neonatology [54-56]. Last, but not least, two further original articles and one invited commentary addressed important topics within the fields of histological, cytological and microbiological research [57-59].

In conclusion, we believe that so far, our editorial adventure has been a success, having achieved our initial goals, and that the quality of the manuscripts published in the Journal has significantly improved over the years. We also feel that it is fitting to maintain the target population of young doctors, drafting their first scientific articles in full autonomy and academic freedom, since we believe that the scientific community should be especially welcoming to the initiatives of young researchers. Therefore, the Journal will maintain its open access policy also in the future, as well as ensuring that the first article by each young doctor will be published free of charge, while for successive articles by the same author accepted for publication during the same solar year, a symbolic publication fee of 50 Euros will be introduced in 2014. We are confident that the introduction of this fee will not negatively influence the potential and goals of the Journal, but only further increase the quality of the published papers.

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