



EDITORIAL

War, human rights, and medical scientific publishing: *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* will accept from now on only papers by authors signing the UN Declaration on Human Rights

Stefano NEGRINI ^{1, 2 *}, Maria G. CERAVOLO ³, Mauro ZAMPOLINI ⁴,
Giovanna BERETTA ⁵, Elena OLIARO ⁶, Giorgio FERRIERO ^{7, 8}

¹Department of Biomedical Surgical and Dental Sciences, University “La Statale,” Milan, Italy; ²IRCCS Galeazzi Orthopedic Institute, Milan, Italy; ³Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona, Italy; ⁴USL Umbria 2, Department of Rehabilitation, Hospital of Foligno, Perugia, Italy; ⁵Italian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (SIMFER), Rome, Italy; ⁶Edizioni Minerva Medica, Turin, Italy; ⁷IRCCS Maugeri Clinical Scientific Institutes, Tradate, Varese, Italy; ⁸Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy

*Corresponding author: Stefano Negrini, Department of Biomedical Surgical and Dental Sciences, University “La Statale,” Milan, Italy.
E-mail: stefano.negrini@unimi.it

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War has stricken Europe again, but war never stopped around the world. We see death from bombs but also famine due to economic restrictions. We will see orphans and people with disability increasing tremendously, but this is continuously happening worldwide. We cannot state that war in Europe is different from what has been happening and is happening everywhere else. Aggressions and fights, actions and counteractions, offence and defence happened, are happening, and unfortunately will happen. Scale, modality, reasons, and actors involved play a role, too. Nevertheless, we recognise that what is happening now is making things more tangible in Europe because it is just around the corner from our everyday life. Nevertheless, better understanding calls for action beyond this war, these people with disabilities, these populations, and these scientists. Scientists: we have friends and colleagues of our PRM European community on both sides, and we have worked with them in the last years to scale up PRM in their countries. We do not know the specific ideas of each of them, but we believe

that none of them wants the war. We thought of them, all of them while deciding what the *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* should do. And it was not easy. In the end, we took a decision with long term effects, a sign of change and of having become more conscious of what has always gone on globally. We agreed on a statement against war and violence wherever happening. We decided not to take a party in the conflict, not because we do not have ideas, but because medicine must remain neutral to help the victims. We vote for the injured, the sufferers, and their lives today and in the future, with all the consequences they will bear the rest of their time on earth. For all these reasons, we decided in favour of Universal Human Rights.¹ We recognise that this will be symbolic, it will be a drop in the ocean, but we also think that we all must contribute in some way. Inaction is unacceptable, but wrong actions could increase the damage. We do not know if this is the best action, but we see it as something permanent from now on due to our better understanding and reflections. We are

also ready to join proposals by others if this is the case, making this decision the first one that could evolve in time. From today, effective immediately, no papers will be accepted in the *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* without formal acceptance by the authors of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. This statement will accompany the Conflict of Interest and Ethical declarations all authors must sign when submitting their papers. It could look as if we increase the burden of bureau-

cracy on the shoulders of authors. It is not. It is just a signature. It is a symbol. But it is also a concrete action against this war, all wars, and in favour of human beings suffering for whatever other reasons linked to violence and abuse.

References

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Conflicts of interest.—Stefano Negrini and Giorgio Ferriero are Chief-Editors of the European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (EJPRM); Maria G. Ceravolo and Mauro Zampolini are Deputy Editors of the EJPRM; Giovanna Beretta is responsible of the Board of Directors of the EJPRM; Elena Oliaro represents the Publisher of the EJPRM, Edizioni Minerva Medica.

Authors' contributions.—All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

History.—Article first published online: March 4, 2022. - Manuscript accepted: March 4, 2022. - Manuscript received: March 4, 2022.

(Cite this article as: Negrini S, Ceravolo MG, Zampolini M, Beretta G, Oliaro E, Ferriero G. War, human rights, and medical scientific publishing: *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* will accept from now on only papers by authors signing the UN Declaration on Human Rights. *Eur J Phys Rehabil Med* 2022;58:159-60. DOI: 10.23736/S1973-9087.22.07498-6)