

The upward trajectory of the UEG journal: Next Generation Trainee Editors

Nine females and six males from Europe and beyond: a quintet of Italians among two English, two Dutch, one German, one Iranian, one Czech, one Portuguese, one Maltese and one Turkish. Our group consists of basic scientists, clinical researchers and clinicians covering all fields of gastroenterology and hepatology. We are the new Trainee Editors of the UEG Journal kicking off in 2023. For this new term, the UEG Journal casted an assorted group of colleagues that differs in many ways with regards to ideas, interests, perspectives and principles. The UEG Journal is committed to values, such as diversity and inclusion, and the composition of this group of Trainee Editors reflects just that. Despite our valuable differences, we shared this dream of joining the Editorial Board, and we are now sharing this responsibility! Together with the Senior Editors, we are planning the future of UEG Journal. We aim to be innovative and bring science closer to a broad readership in various (and sometimes unconventional) ways. To fuel the journal's growth, and keep up with the increasing number of submissions to the UEG Journal, there will be new tasks for the Trainee Editors.

Of course, we would not be here today if it was not for the stellar work done by our predecessors; a team of 10 Trainee Editors who contributed to the UEG Journal becoming the prestigious journal as it is today.^{1,2} They not only assisted in reviewing of manuscripts, but also improved search engine optimization (SEO), increased visibility on social media, created eye-catching visual abstracts, lobbied for the "Clinical Image" segment, and produced remarkable podcast series.³ Whilst we thank them for their impeccable work, we know we have very big shoes to fill.

THE NEW TEAM

As of 2023, the editorial team will be supported by 15 new, highly gifted Trainee Editors, carefully selected by the UEG Young Talent Group⁴ and the Journal's Editorial Board. Allow us to introduce ourselves and highlight our exciting upcoming roles.

Ana Dugic and **Omar Elshaarawy** will be tasked with promoting the visibility of our Journal. With their trademark liveliness and enthusiasm, Ana will help in upgrading the UEG Journal's Website, while Omar will continue to expand our readership by handling

Journal's Social Media channels. **Ahsen Ustaoglu** and **Tarik Kani** will host the Journal's Podcast and will select exciting contents to be presented in a clear and effective manner. By contributing expertise in Neurogastroenterology, Ahsen will also be serving as a peer reviewer in the field. **Anna Burelli** and **Zsa Zsa Weerts** will help create striking visual abstracts that will enrich our social media platforms, Journal's Website and the understanding of the key points of UEG Journal's articles. In addition, Zsa Zsa will take care of the clinical images series—our recently launched feature. **Ahad Eshraghian** and **Davide Ribaldone** will perform SEO to make our articles among top ranked on a search results page. **Anthea Pisani** and **Lumir Kunovsky** will bring their gushing and valuable scientific expertise in Endoscopy by being involved in the peer-review process. The most deserving articles in the ever-growing field of inflammatory bowel diseases will be reviewed by two young experts—**Joana Roseira** and **Irene Marafini**. **Iris Levink** brings significant research expertise in Oncology and will be peer-reviewing articles on this topic. Last but not least, to enhance the scientific rigor in their respective fields and to further expand these areas, **Claudia Campani** will cover articles in the field of hepatology, whereas **Alberto Balduzzi** will peer-review articles in pancreatology.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The editorial team at the UEG Journal recognises the value of having a mixture of Senior and Trainee Editors, as the Senior Editors bring a wealth of experience and knowledge, while the Trainee Editors bring fresh perspectives, motivation, and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to add on to their achievements and jump on board of this moving train. We decided to go back to the basics, define our goals, and assemble ideas aiming to highlight trends that would bring the journal to a higher level. Our primary objective is to guide dissemination of high-quality research regarding the gastrointestinal system and offer a platform for two groups of professionals: **authors** who desire increased visibility of their high-quality research, and **readers** who wish to gain knowledge about a diversity of topics related to the gastrointestinal system.

Back in the day, **authors** shared their findings and gained visibility by publishing in a printed version of a journal, which was sent

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by mail to a researcher with similar interests on the other side of the world. With the rise of the Internet and social media came the potential of sharing knowledge rapidly and reaching a larger audience.^{5,6} A main strength of UEG Journal is its extensive use of media platforms and SEO to increase the visibility of the manuscript and disseminate its findings.⁷ We aim to embrace this further by adopting a more holistic combination of media that directs readers to one destination: your publication. For instance, by (1) expanding the engagement of UEG ambassadors with social media platforms to reach a wider audience; (2) creating a podcast in line with the published content; (3) providing more visual content through visual abstracts. We are looking into possibilities to provide a behind-the-scenes insight into the team producing the publications and discuss their future perspective in the podcast and/or a column.








We aim to create multimedia content, such as videos, to help explain the editorial process and advise the authors on how to reach a larger audience (e.g., SEO). For those articles which have been reviewed, a simple 'not accepted' will not suffice, yet each author will receive an elaborate and structured feedback (within a short time window) that could be used to further increase the quality of the manuscript before submitting it to a future journal (upon the author's choice). This will create a trustworthy and transparent reviewing process.

With this thorough reviewing process, we hope to attract high-quality research that is easily accessible and helps readers stay up to date with the latest research. Each reader can find his or her own way of absorbing information through different platforms and modalities offered by the journal, which makes content attainable for both expert and junior readers that wish to gain gastroenterology knowledge. The graphical abstract has proven to be a helpful tool for readers, and has been thoroughly adapted in the latest issues providing a simplified overview of the article. Additionally, it makes reading the article attractive and supports the selection of articles that deserve in-depth reading of the manuscript or listening to the podcast. The platform of the podcast will be adopted, yet made further accessible, broadly shared, and expanded to a more detailed discussion about implications of the published research.

CONCLUSION

As the new Trainee Editors of the UEG Journal, we are ready to roll up our sleeves! We will be working closely with the Senior Editorial Board to bring science closer to the readers by being involved in a variety of tasks: promotion of the journal's visibility through the website and social media, creation of podcasts and visual abstracts, and improvement of the SEO. At last, we will be involved in (and further improve) the peer review process, ensuring that the journal continues to publish high-quality scientific research.

We look forward to working together and to sharing our progress with our readers.

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DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no new data were created or analyzed in this study.

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