

Editorial

# Three Decades of Progress and Commitment: Brief Historical Landmarks of ‘Galician Medical Journal’ Journey

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## Abstract

The ‘Galician Medical Journal’ celebrates its thirtieth anniversary, marking three decades of impactful contributions to the medical field. Since its establishment in 1994, the journal has evolved, overcoming challenges to become a significant platform for disseminating medical knowledge. In this editorial, we briefly reflect on the historical evolution of the journal, highlighting its transformation from local origins to an active involvement in the global medical community.

## Keywords

History; Scholarly Publishing; Medicine; Galicia

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*Dear Colleagues,*

The Editorial Office of the ‘Galician Medical Journal’ is delighted to announce the publication of the thirtieth-anniversary volume with the release of its 4<sup>th</sup> issue. Since its establishment in 1994, this marks a significant milestone for the journal, signifying three decades of intellectual contributions to the medical field. This momentous occasion prompts a brief reflection on the journal from its inception. Initially founded by the Ivano-Frankivsk State Medical Academy, the journal aimed to contribute to the development and sharing of medical knowledge within Ukraine, with a primary focus on Western Ukraine. The journal was curated by Professor E. Neiko, its first Editor-in-Chief, holding the esteemed titles of Doctor of Medical Sciences, Academician, and Member of the Presidium of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine (Fig. 1). The key scope of the journal was the therapeutic aspect of medicine. However, the beginning of the journal history coincided with and was significantly influenced by various socio-economic challenges and upheaval. Despite these impediments, the journal played a crucial role in shaping a new era in the history of internal medicine in the Carpathian region and Galicia. Notably, due to limited digital resources during that period, the journal was pub-

lished in traditional paper form. However, these obstacles did not impede the journal rise in popularity, and during the first decade of its existence, the ‘Galician Medical Journal’ reached high popularity among Ukrainian medical scientists as a prestigious platform for disseminating their findings.

In 2011, the appointment of Professor Mykola Rozhko, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine as Editor-in-Chief marked a significant evolutionary milestone in the journal history. Since then, the editorial process has focused on adhering to the principles of transparency and best practices in scholarly publishing. Recognizing the importance of digital resources in contemporary academic publishing, in 2011, the journal website was created, and the journal management moved from traditional methods to the OJS platform. Such step allowed for improving the quality and visibility of the journal, providing open access for authors, reviewers, and readers worldwide (Fig. 2, 3). The editorial workflow undergoes regular review and enhancements in different directions. Significant efforts have been dedicated to the design of the journal homepage. The aim was to develop a user-friendly website, not overloaded with diverse links, with a focus on scientific content to guide visitors and, at the same time, to provide all information for the potential authors and reviewers. An important aspect is how the journal presents its



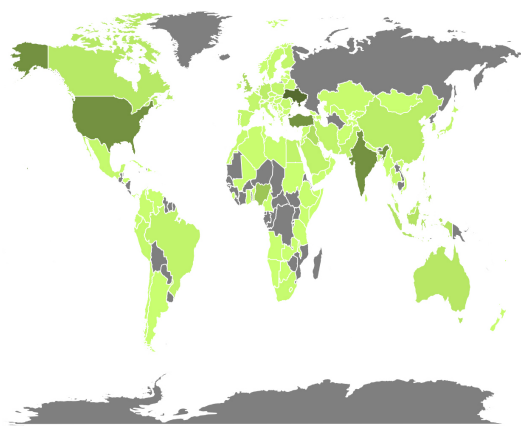
**Figure 1.** Chronicles in covers: a visual retrospective of the ‘Galician Medical Journal’ design.

published studies to the scientific community. Recognizing that published articles should contain more than scientific content, they should also engage readers, create a presentation effect, evoke emotions, and be search engine friendly, the articles were formatted in new PDF and XML/HTML layouts. In 2016, the publisher joined Crossref, enabling every article to acquire a DOI. Nowadays the DOI is widely used in the academic and publishing spheres, but at that time, the ‘Galician Medical Journal’ was among the first scholarly journals of Ukraine to implement this instrument into the editorial workflow.

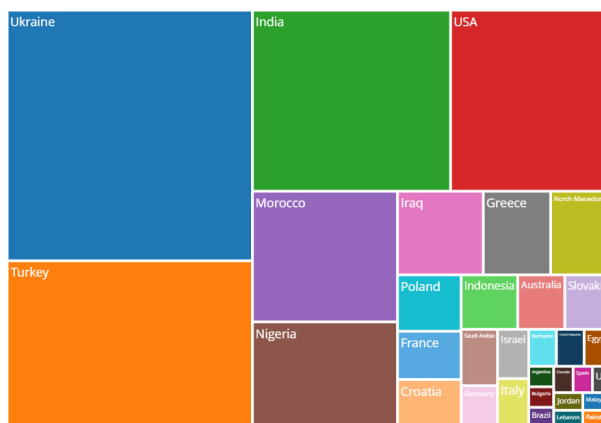
High-quality peer review is a cornerstone in scholarly publishing. Ensuring the quality of peer review is of paramount importance, and the Editorial Office has spared utmost effort to its continual enhancement. The transition to digital journal management allowed not only for changing a single-blind to a double-blind model, but also enabled the inclusion of foreign researchers as peer reviewers, that significantly improved the scientific rigor and posi-

tioned the journal as a pivotal platform for disseminating scientific knowledge in general internal medicine, pathology, dentistry, and medical education (Fig. 4). Therefore, the Editorial Office is deeply appreciative of the committed researchers who expertly guide, review, and provide invaluable comments and suggestions, enabling us to maintain the scientific quality (Fig. 3). The journal policies, especially in peer-review, are regularly reviewed and updated to align with new trends in scholarly publishing. The Editorial office adheres to the guidelines and principles of publication ethics of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and, since 2022, the journal proudly holds membership in this esteemed organization.

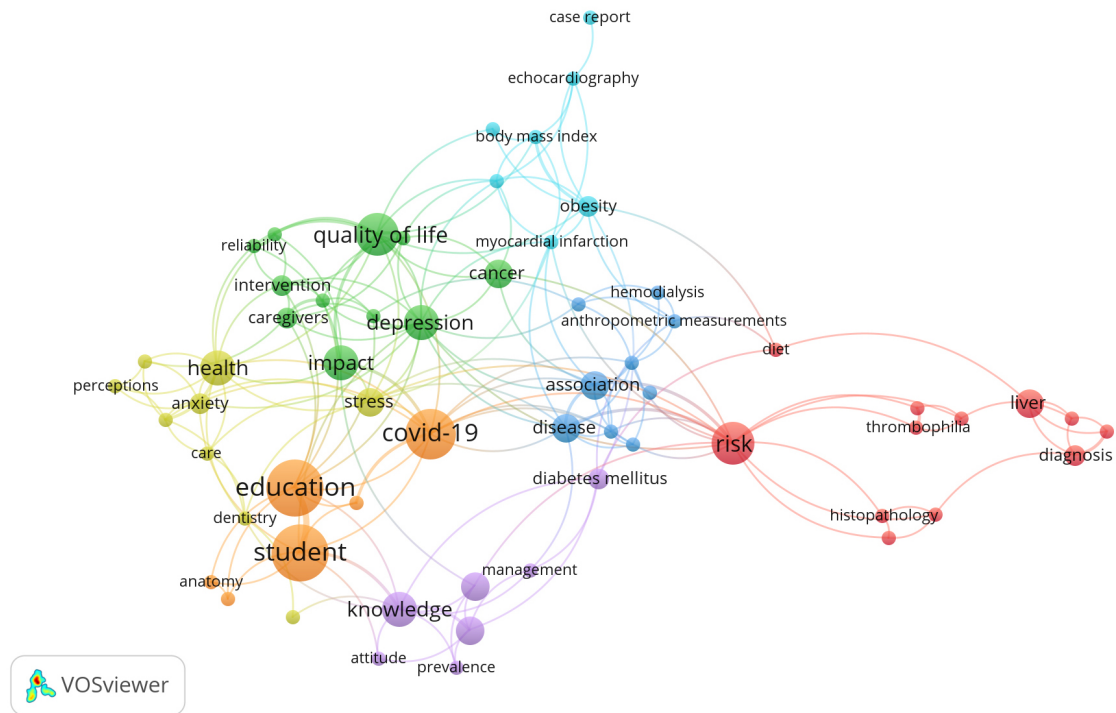
Since August 2023, Professor Oksana Popadynets has been meticulously curating the ‘Galician Medical Journal’ as its new Editor-in-Chief. The Editorial Office is dedicated to upholding the commitment to develop the journal, serving as the platform for scientific communication, sharing medical knowledge and experience, and integrating the best



**Figure 2.** ‘Galician Medical Journal’ readers, authors, and reviewers: global activity.



**Figure 3.** Diversity of authors and reviewers since 2020.



**Figure 4.** Map of authors’ keywords: bibliometric analysis of articles published from 2020 to 2023 (Generated with VOSviewer).

practices and new trends in scholarly publishing. We are gratefully thankful to our readers, authors, and reviewers’ community, whose inspiration and commitment continue to drive the development of the journal. Your contributions stand as the cornerstone of the journal success, and we eagerly anticipate even greater achievements in the years ahead.

*Sincerely yours,*

### Ethical Statement

No human or animal subjects were involved; therefore, ethical approval is not applicable.

### Data Availability

No new datasets were generated for this editorial. Data sharing is not applicable.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors disclose their affiliation as members of the Editorial Office of the ‘Galician Medical Journal’ at the time of submitting this editorial material. The opinions expressed in this editorial solely reflect the views of the Editorial Office and do not involve any potential conflicts of interest that might influence the authors’ opinions presented in the manuscript.

### Financial Disclosure

The authors declared no financial support.