



Looking ahead

Arturo Chiti^{1,2}

Published online: 1 April 2021

© Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am sharing a brief note on our journal, looking ahead after the tragic experience of 2020, unfortunately in extending 2021.

What is happening with the pandemic is affecting our personal and professional life, and I will not make additional comments on this tragedy.

The year 2020 was the record year for submission to the EJNMMI. The COVID pandemic made undoubtedly a significant role, but I am sure that we also successfully increase our journal's visibility.

We published some relevant papers on new clinical experiences and new radiopharmaceuticals. AI contributions came in high number. We can say that EJNMMI is one of the leading imaging journals concerning advanced image analyses, of course, mainly related to the molecular imaging applications in this field.

We have almost finalized a special issue on tau imaging, which will guide clinicians and scientists in nuclear medicine's incredible developments in neurology.

Three topical sections are in preparation: "TSPO imaging", "New technologies in imaging", and "Alpha therapy in oncology". You will enjoy reading the most updated papers in these exciting fields.

We are connecting with the editors of the EJNMMI family journals to refine our strategy as a group of journals and serve our community in the best way possible.

Collaboration with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine is getting even more substantial. We are having regular meetings with the EANM Board and

the EJNMMI family editors in chief. These contacts help discuss strategy related to the journals and share ideas coming from the EANM committees.

We are also intensifying meetings with the associate editors to set the journal's strategy global. We have incredible diversity on the EJNMMI board that allows us to play as a recognized journal worldwide.

The DORA initiative (<https://sfdora.org>) will influence the assessment of research in the following years. In line with these principles, we want to drive the journal focusing on quality and not only on the parameters derived from citations. We want to increase the visibility and quality of the EJNMMI even further, preparing the journal for a time in which Open Science will be a reality. Supporting this idea implies that we should not follow an impact factor strategy. The impact factor was introduced when scientific articles were on paper and still has several well-known limitations. Although very useful, the impact factor cannot guide our strategy and our editorial policy. Moreover, calculations related to the impact factor might change, like this year (<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2020/12/07/jif-calculation-2021/?informz=1>).

I am not neglecting the impact factor's importance, but it has to be considered one of the many factors used to assess a journal's quality. As a result of an impact factor-driven policy, you might be aware that some journals get into trouble because they artificially increased their citations. Of course, these bad stories are not frequent, but they tell us always to follow our goals: publishing high-quality papers and serve the community.

This article is part of the Topical Collection on Editorial.

✉ Arturo Chiti
arturo.chiti@hunimed.eu

¹ Department of Biomedical Sciences, Humanitas University, Via Rita Levi Montalcini 4, Pieve Emanuele, 20090 Milan, Italy

² IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Via Manzoni 56, Rozzano, 20089 Milan, Italy

Let me finish extending my gratitude to those of you that contributed to our journal worldwide. Authors, reviewers, editorial board members, and associate editors made a terrific effort to keep our journal lively and efficient in these troubled times.

Declarations

Ethical approval Not applicable.

Informed consent Not applicable.

Conflict of interest The author declares no competing interests.

Publisher's note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.