



EDITORIAL POLICIES AND BACKGROUND IN EDITING *MACEDONIAN MEDICAL REVIEW* AND *BANTAO JOURNAL*

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Abstract

Even in as small a country as R. Macedonia with limited resources allocated for science, there are many journals trying to establish good editorial practices and policies in publishing the scientific work achieved. Among the currently existing medical journals *Macedonian Medical Review* (MMR), ISSN 002561097, deserves to be elaborated as the oldest journal with continuous publication since its first appearance as the journal of the Macedonian Medical Association (MMA). Since its first issue, published in 1946, there has been an opus of some 4500 peer-reviewed published papers in more than 210 issues and some 80 supplements from various congresses and meetings. In this regard, great respect should be paid not only to the editorial boards, but also to the collaborators who have contributed to its successful continuity in all previous years.

In line with the needs for further development of the journal and possibilities for access to world databases, the Editorial Board of MMR has made every effort to improve and modernize its work as well as the technical quality of the journal. Hence, MMA has signed a contract with De Gruyter Open as leading publisher of Open Access academic content for further improvement and promotion of the journal and facilitation of the Medline application, so we do hope for the further success of the journal.

BANTAO Journal is published on behalf of the Balkan Cities Association of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs (BANTAO), ISSN 131262517. The first issue was published in 2003, ten years after BANTAO was born. Its appearance was an extremely important event in the existence of BANTAO. The first official editor of the journal was Dimitar Nenov, Varna (2003-2005), followed by Ali Basci (Izmir, Turkey) and Goce Spasovski (Skopje, Macedonia) as editor-in-chief since 2009. Over the years, the Journal has been included in the EBSCO, DOAJ and SCOPUS/SCIMAGO databases.

The journal is published biannually. Until now, 345 papers have been published in the past 11 years, in 21 regular issues and 3 supplements. It may be said that the journal is the "glue" between the nephrologists from the Balkan cities, reflecting the high quality research and scientific potential of Balkan nephrologists. The entire process of submitting and reviewing the manuscripts is electronically done and after their acceptance they are freely available (open access journal) on the website of the association and the journal: www.bantao.org.

In this regard, the current President of BANTAO has already signed a contract with De Gruyter Open as leading publisher of Open Access academic content for further improvement and promotion of the journal and Medline application for the further success of the journal.

Key words: O cegf qpklp'O gf leclTgxly . 'Dcpvcq' lqwtpcn'O cegf qpklp'O gf leclCuqekvqkp.'F 'I tw{ygt'Qr gp

Macedonian Medical Review

Although the Republic of Macedonia is a small country with limited resources allocated

for science and publication of the scientific work achieved, there are many journals from various areas trying to establish good editorial

practices and policies. Certainly, among the currently existing medical journals *Macedonian Medical Review* / Makedonski medicinski preglad (MMR), ISSN 0025–1097, deserves to be elaborated as the oldest journal with continuous publication since its first appearance [1].

Immediately after the Second World War the Macedonian Medical Association (MMA) was founded as an association of doctors, dentists and pharmaceutical chemists. In the following year (1946) the Macedonian Medical Review was established as the journal of MMA [2]. Nowadays, we can say, MMR is the longest-standing journal in the field of medicine in the Republic of Macedonia, having come out for 68 years. The first issue was published in 1946 and it has been regularly issued up to the present with an opus of some 4500 peer-reviewed published papers in more than 210 issues and some 80 supplements from various congresses and meetings. In this regard, great respect should be paid not only to the editorial boards, but also to the collaborators who contributed to its successful continuity in all previous years.

The earliest papers were written by the first editor-in-chief, Haralampie Manchev, and his secretary Dimitar Arsov. Thereafter, chief editors of the journal were Boris Spirov, Dimitrie Atanackovik, Done Mioviski, Isak Tadzer, Metodija Stankovski, Jonce Nedelkovski, Josip Novak, Ljupco Grozdev, Delka Stojanova and Gjorgji Zografski. Since 2010 the editor-in-chief has been Goce Spasovski.

From its establishment until 2010 the journal was published in six issues per year, but almost all of them were composed as double issues. Over the last four years, it has been published quarterly with a regular three numbers per year. The papers used to be published in Macedonian and/or languages of the former ex YU republics as well as in English or some other world languages (French, German). In the last couple of years the majority of papers have been submitted and published in English with an abstract in Macedonian or vice versa. All papers are proof-read and language-edited, as indicated on the first page of each journal issue.

Formerly, the journal was financed by various sources such as the Ministry of Science, the City of Skopje, the Self-governing Association of Interest for Health, and by other educational and non-governmental organisation.

In the last couple of years as it has become rather difficult to get any funding, the MMR print version has been covered mainly from the fees of the MMA members and support from a couple of pharmaceutical companies, and printed with fewer numbers of copies in each issue. Nevertheless, all members of MMA receive an electronic version of the journal through an E-mail blast.

Importantly, there are three separate published bibliographies comprising all the papers published in MMR in various periods: 1946–1985; 1986–1995 and 1996–2006. Thus it is considered a unique opportunity for the journal to have its own condensed bibliography comprising all papers published until 2006.

It is also worth mentioning that for a short period in 1961 only a few papers from MMR were accepted and included in the Index Medicus database (Medline/PubMed) where the journal's abbreviated title was *Makedon Med Pregl*. Otherwise, the regularly used abbreviation written on the journal itself is *Mak Med Pregled*, or *Mac Med Review*.

In line with the needs for further development of the journal and possibilities for access to world databases, the Editorial Board of MMR has made every effort to improve and modernize its work as well as the technical quality of the journal. MMR has a link from the web page of MMA and some limited bibliographic information of published papers may be available at: <http://www.makedonskolekarskodrustvo.com>. In addition, a new web page is under construction with the intention of putting all issues in our new electronic database:

<http://mzndtvo.wix.com/mmr>, creating the electronic version of the journal that will enable easier access to the published papers, and a consequently greater visibility and quality of the journal.

Recently MMA has signed a contract with De Gruyter Open as leading publisher of Open Access academic content for further improvement and promotion of the journal and facilitation of the Medline application, so we do hope for the further success of the journal.

Bantao Journal

BANTAO Journal (BJ): the Journal of the Balkan Cities Association of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs

(BANTAO), ISSN 1312–2517, is an official journal of the BANTAO association. The first issue was published in 2003, ten years after BANTAO was born in 1993 in Ohrid during the first Congress of the Macedonian Society of Nephrology, Dialysis, Transplantation and Artificial Organs (MSNDTAO). In fact, the first issue was a book of abstracts composed of the 330 submitted abstracts selected from the 6th BANTAO Congress held in Varna. The Editor was Veselin Nenov and Editorial board members were: Ljubica Djukanovic (Yugoslavia), Dimitar Nenov (Bulgaria), Momir Polenakovic (R. Macedonia), and Charalambos Stathakis (Greece), all founders of the BANTAO Association. Its appearance was an extremely important event in the existence of BANTAO. The first official editor of the journal was Dimitar Nenov, Varna (2003–2005). Over time, there were editorial changes: from 2005 to 2009 the Editor was Ali Basci (Izmir, Turkey) and Deputy Editor Goce Spasovski (Skopje, Macedonia). G. Spasovski has been editor in chief since 2009 along with the deputy editor Veselin Nenov (Varna, Bulgaria) and associated editors (Mustafa Arici, Ankara, Turkey; Nada Dimkovic, Belgrade, Serbia; Dimitrios Goumenos, Patra, Greece; and Nikolina Basic-Jukic, Zagreb, Croatia), together with the considerable efforts and engagement of the whole Editorial Board, have succeeded in that the Journal has been included in the EBSCO, DOAJ and SCOPUS/SCIMAGO databases. Nevertheless, it should be stated that this great progress was made thanks to the contributors to the Journal and especially to Veselin Nenov as responsible for the maintenance of the Journal web page over the years as an important milestone for the improvement and worldwide recognition of the Journal.

The journal is published biannually. Up till now, 345 papers have been published in the past 11 years, in 21 regular issues and 3 supplements (Antalia, Chalkidiki, Timisoara congresses). Hence, it may be said that the journal is the "glue" between the nephrologists from the Balkan cities, reflecting the high quality research and scientific potential of Balkan nephrologists [3]. In addition, these data clearly show that the potential for nephrologists who originate from developing countries deserves mention, and despite the restricted resources and insufficient registry data, an emerging collaboration in single and multicenter national studies on clinical and epi-

demiological rather than basic research is favoured [4]. Furthermore, the journal publishes the highly scientific contribution of world-recognized experts in the field of nephrology.

Within its scope the journal publishes papers written in English that refer to clinical and laboratory investigations of relevance to nephrology, dialysis and transplantation, as well as those from basic immunology, anatomy and physiology of the kidneys. The entire process of submitting and reviewing the manuscripts is electronically done and after their acceptance they are freely available (open access journal) on the website of the association and the journal: www.bantao.org.

Considering the goals proposed when BANTAO Association was established: '*The main goal of BANTAO is to promote scientific and technical cooperation in the field of renal diseases and artificial organs between the Balkan cities. This goal will be achieved not only through a periodical congress, but also through lecturers exchange, fellowship exchange, scientific research methods exchange, joint meetings and courses, publications and cooperation in the field of renal transplant*', the Journal has surely contributed to their achievement and to the benefit of BANTAO [5]. However, there is a lot to be done in the forthcoming period in increasing the submission rate and quality of papers considering the importance of Journal papers citation, since BJ has already obtained Scientific Impact factor. Finally, the aim would be to include *BANTAO Journal* in the Medline database which is the way to increase Journal Impact Factor (Thomson Reuters) once its Medline cited. In this regard, the current President of BANTAO has already signed a contract with De Gruyter Open as leading publisher of Open Access academic content for further improvement and promotion of the journal and Medline application for the further success of the journal.

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