

## Acta Medica Academica is now indexed in Medline/PubMed

Husref Tahirović

Department of Medical Sciences of the Academy  
of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Corresponding author:

Husref Tahirović  
Academy of Sciences and  
Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bistrik 7  
71000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
[husref.tahirovic@untz.ba](mailto:husref.tahirovic@untz.ba)  
Tel./ Fax.: + 387 35 303 740

Received: 14 April 2013; Accepted: 20 April 2013

Copyright © 2013 by Academy of Sciences and Arts  
of Bosnia and Herzegovina. E-mail for permission to  
publish: [amabih@anubih.ba](mailto:amabih@anubih.ba)

Towards the end of last year, on 20.11.2012, we were informed that our journal *Acta Medica Academica (AMA)* had been selected, from the first issue published in 2012, for indexation in Medline/PubMed. The announcement arrived only six months after our first application.

This success comes after six years' hard work by the new editorial board of the journal. Although the *AMA* journal, as the successor to the journal *Radovi*, has a tradition longer than forty years (Volume 41), the re-vamping of the journal in 2006 in line with the guidelines of the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (1, 2) required sweeping changes. This practically

meant that the journal set out on a path on which it was necessary to overcome all the difficulties faced by a new journal (3, 4), in an environment, which may with justification be seen to be a small scientific community.

With the new concept of publication, the journal was meant first of all to achieve regularity in publication, as at that time it had not been published for two years. It was necessary to affirm the journal and its work concept and "seek out" manuscripts for publication, in the full meaning of those words.

I would like to mention with much gratitude those who, together with me, have been doing this work with dedication from the very beginning. The former editors of the Croatian Medical Journal made a significant contribution to the affirmation of our journal in Croatia: Prof. Dr. Ana Marušić and Prof. Dr. Matko Marušić. A certain number of their articles, and articles sent to the editorial board thanks to their recommendation, have been published in the *AMA* journal. They have supported the journal with advice and in many areas in terms of their expertise, and technical and organization details.

Members of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences – BHAAAS have also contributed to the affirmation of the journal in the United States of America. By publishing their own articles and encouraging their colleagues to publish their articles in our journal, they have

contributed to the better quality and richer content of the latest issues of *AMA*. In this regard, the most significant contributions came from Prof. Dr. Gordan Srkalović, Dr. Emir Festić and Dr. Ognjen Gajić.

The following also contributed to the affirmation of the journal in their own settings: Doc. Dr. Nermina Arifhodžić from Kuwait, Prof. Dr. Adnan Čustović and Prof. Dr. Predrag Slijepčević from England, Prof. Dr. Bogdan Bošković from Serbia, and Doc. Dr. Mojca Sajko Čížek from Slovenia. They also improved the quality of the journal significantly by sending in their own articles. Indeed, the greatest contribution to achieving this success came from the authors of the articles we published, since they could have published the articles they published in *AMA* in more respected journals.

### **How have we worked?**

In the last six years a significant activity of *AMA* has been individual work with young authors who thus have had the opportunity to learn about writing skills and the medical publishing process. Members of the editorial board of *AMA* do not reject poorly written/prepared manuscripts with relevant themes and/or interesting core data, but repeatedly correct them in close cooperation with the authors ('pre-review') until they are ready for the international review process.

All manuscripts submitted to *AMA* undergo "double-blind" peer review. They are reviewed by at least three reviewers. In the first round of peer reviewing, a majority of reviewers must recommend at least publication with revisions for the authors to be invited to resubmit their revised articles. In the second round, a majority of the original peer reviewers must recommend publication of the article as it stands. The editors retain final discretion over publication of all articles. Every manuscript accepted for publication is proofread by a lecturer whose native language is English.

*AMA* was the first journal in Bosnia and Herzegovina to introduce mandatory checking of all submissions for text similarity using CrossCheck. Two members of our editorial team have engaged successfully in plagiarism research. As a result of this work we discovered three plagiarized manuscripts. Also *AMA* is the first journal in the country which informs the public about the best publications by domestic authors in international journals.

The academic community have liked the column, which may increase the journal's visibility. We opted for visibility rather than for profit, because we judged that our readership is not willing or able to pay access to the e-version of the journal. For this very reason, we declined offers to join the commercial electronic package of prestigious journals.

One of the reasons why the *AMA* journal was only a biannual is the rather low number of articles that we received for consideration due to the fact that authors want to publish in journals indexed in respectable bases, as well as due to the fact that *AMA* is known as a journal with strict and harsh criteria with respect to the article review process. Now, after being indexed in Medline/PubMed we hope that we will receive a larger number of articles and that this will enable us to gradually increase the frequency of publication of the journal.

### **What does the future hold?**

In the near future we will retain the current concept of editing the journal. We are also planning to improve our current cooperation with national and foreign scientific institutions and experts in the field of biomedicine, to ensure that the journal will continue to be a form of school for young researchers from BH in scientific research and publication, to make it possible for the journal, in terms of content, to become part of the professional literature used by its read-

ers in their everyday work, to improve the availability of the published articles on an international level, increase the frequency of publication of the journal and achieve more indexations.

## Conclusion

In realization of the new concept of the journal we have used our own, but also other people's experience. Together with the reviewers, we have helped those authors who have needed it in their research and in writing articles. All this has, in a relatively short period of time, had a significant impact on the quality of the journal, and has made it possible for us to have today a journal that is indexed in Medline/PubMed – the most important and the largest world index base of biomedical data. Indexation in such a relevant index base means that access to complete articles published in our journal and bibliographic and abstract data from those articles will be free of charge. This will mean that the interest of researchers from the near

and further surroundings, but also the entire world, in the *AMA* journal will be even greater.

**Conflict of interest:** The author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

## References

1. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication [updated 2006 February]. Available from: [http://www.icmje.org/2006\\_urm.pdf](http://www.icmje.org/2006_urm.pdf).
2. Drazen JM, Van Der Weyden MB, Sahni P, Rosenberg J, Marusic A, Laine C, et al. Uniform format for disclosure of competing interests in ICMJE journals. *Croat Med J.* 2009;50:427-8.
3. Marusic M, Marusic A, King R, Tamber SP. Chapter 1-5.1. Establishing a new journal. In: Maisonneuve H, Enckell PH, Polderman A, Thapa R, Johnson M, editors. *Science Editors' Handbook*. Reading: European Association of Science Editors; 2005. p.1-4. Available at: <http://www.ease.org.uk/handbook/index.shtml>.
4. Marusic A, Marusic M. Small scientific journals from small countries: breaking from a vicious circle of inadequacy. *Croat Med J.* 1999;40(4):508-14.