

## Editorial

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### Chirurgia - romanian journal of surgery in the top of best medical publications

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*Editor-in-chief*

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Not long ago the journal "Chirurgia" celebrated a century of existence. We emphasized at that occasion that it is one of the oldest European medical journals, having a virtually uninterrupted appearance. We all wanted, besides the prestige given by its tradition, to add one more pride reason related to quality. Not an easy thing to do, in a world where there are numerous publications, each having the same ambitions for which many editorial teams are making a great effort. However, in the past three years, this goal was achieved. In the summer of 2008 (happened at the National Congress of Surgery in Eforie Nord) "Chirurgia:" was included among ISI journals, and this summer it received an impact-factor of 0.56, which ranks it on place 152 between the 187 classified journals.

Articles published in "Chirurgia" were cited 429 times, and three of them were classified the first in a top of the first ten articles published in their field according to BioMedLib, the main search engine of the National Library of Medicine's Medline database:

1. Tonea A, Andrei S, Andronesi D, Vasilescu C, Diculescu M, Andrei A, Ionescu M: Severe upper gastro-intestinal hemorrhage of a rare cause: aorto-esophageal fistula

successfully treated. Chirurgia (Bucur). 2005 Nov-Dec; 100(6):599-604.

2. Anastasiu M, Strambu V, Popa F: Evidenced-based medicina, conceptual challenge or the future of daily practice? Chirurgia (Bucur). 2007 Sep-Oct;102(5): 527-530.
3. Andrei S, Andrei A, Tonea A, Andronesi D, Becheanu G, Dumbrava M, Pechianu C: Risk factors for malignant evolution of gastrointestinal stromal tumors Chirurgia (Bucur); 2007 Nov-Dec; 102 (6): 641-650

Two articles, both about robotic surgery, had have eleven ISI citations each, and the total number of articles published during the last 4 years which have received citations is 103. Two of the articles published in "Chirurgia" were cited by the prestigious journals Lancet Oncology, respectively, Annals of Surgery. But the greatest accomplishment is that our journal appeared in this top of the best medical journals in the world, thing that most of us did not even dream at some time ago.

In the past years we made some important steps forward in the surgical publishing field, and we believe that an ISI Impact Factor of 0.56 is, for the present, a good result, considering the difficulties we had to confront with.

Primarily because, until now, the journal appears mainly in Romanian, which creates a handicap in the international insertion and in the access of our colleagues speaking other languages to the scientific content of the articles.

Secondly because most of the publishing authors are Romanians, and Romanian surgery crosses the same marked by crisis period as the entire Romanian society.

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However, the position "Chirurgia" reached at this moment, compels us to progress further.

It is a moral duty that we have towards our ancestors, but also towards the generations to come.

Therefore, one of our goals is to publish increasingly more in English, an invitation we already addressed a long time ago, also to the Romanian speaking publishers.

In parallel, we seek to develop more the relationships with foreign colleagues, whose works have contributed themselves, in a decisive way, to get the current impact factor. The invitation to publish in "Chirurgia" is addressed primarily to our colleagues from the neighbouring countries.

We welcomed three messages, which we quote below, from three editors-in-chief of surgical journals, which we have enjoyed and to whom we specifically address the invitation to collaborate. The same remains true for our colleagues from Bulgaria, Ukraine and of course, from other European countries.

The editorial team aims to lead a more sustained work to improve the quality of the accepted articles, using more consistently the reviewers team we already have, but to whom we will claim to be more critical in a constructive way, so that the final form of the articles to be closer to the present requirements. We believe that along with this international recognition, it is important to make a step forward also in the selection of the topics proposed for publication: the experience of a surgical department is important, as long as the focus is oriented to a current issue, of great interest, and the study of the casuistry brings valuable scientific data, which eventually make a good starting point for making new articles, the following citations being important in the maintenance or even the increase of the ISI quotation.

In conclusion, I would say that the success we obtained is a joy for the editorial board of the "Chirurgia" journal, as it is for all Romanian surgeons, but it also represents a great obligation. A mission that we can honor only through a sustained collective effort, to which must participate primarily the Romanian surgeons, the Romanians living abroad and all those who want to come and join us to contribute to the progress of one of the oldest scientific publications of the old continent.

#### Messages:

*Dear Editor-in-chief,  
Dear Colleagues,*

*As the President of the Hungarian Surgical Society and Editor-in-chief of the Hungarian Journal of Surgery I wholeheartedly congratulate for the honourable achievement that the Chirurgia has already been given an impact factor.*

*We, surgeons who live and work in Central-Europe, know exactly how highly significant success is this and appreciate its great value accordingly. The uneasy circumstances you*

*produced these results in further increase the worth of your accomplishment. Again, I sincerely congratulate to the editors and all authors of the Chirurgia.*

*Prof. Attila Oláh*

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*Dear Professor Popescu,*

*On behalf of Acta Chirurgica Iugoslavica, the Official Journal of the Yugoslav Association of Surgeons, which has been published in continuity for the past fifty years, in my name and in the name of all the Serbian Surgeons I wish to congratulate Chirurgia, on receiving an IF.*

*Surgeons living in this part of the world know how difficult it is to edit and maintain a surgical journal and achieve the high standards necessary for an IF. We also know that a surgical society is recognized by its journal and the work done by the editorial staff. The path to an IF is long and difficult and you have shown all of us that determination and work lead to the goal.*

*Surgeons in Romania have a Journal they can be proud off. This is the ultimate way to show the worldwide surgical community the great work and contributions done by Romanian surgeons.*

*We wish Chirurgia all the best in the future and a rapidly and permanently increasing IF.*

*Sincerely yours.  
Miroslav Milicevic  
Belgrade*

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*To the editor-in-chief of the journal "Chirurgia"*

*Congratulations for getting an ISI quotation for the "Chirurgia" journal which was and remains the most important surgical journal of the Romanian territory.*

*The pages of the journal you supervise hosts articles of the scientists from Basarabia too, an opportunity for us to get professional and scientific recognition in Eastern Europe. The editorial quotation you received places your journal among regional journals, which is important for propagation of surgery and of the Romanian surgical scientists from everywhere.*

*Vivat! Crescat! Floriat!*

*With special considerations  
The President of the Moldavian Society of Surgery  
Professor Vladimir HOTINEANU"*