

EDITORIAL

Welcome to TIJM, The International Journal of Medicine

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The International Journal of Medicine is a general medical journal that aims to support a transdisciplinary learning community of those who generate and use new knowledge. It is a peer-reviewed research journal, born out of the growing need to advance the knowledge and communication through a large spectrum of medical specialties. The International Journal of Medicine features original research from the clinical, biomedical, social and health sciences. Contributions on methodology and theory develop the underpinning for future research; selected systematic reviews draw on explicit methods to synthesize what is known and to move beyond - to advance theory or methods, or to identify new research directions; essays from reflective clinicians, patients, families, communities, and policy-makers portray a personal perspective on illness, health, and health care. The International Journal of Medicine aims to be such a forum.

TIJM, The International Journal of Medicine organizes an international Distance Learning Program that completes the publication's aims and provides an opportunity for readers to receive continuous medical education via a large variety of CME courses and to actively engage in discussion of the progress of each medical specialty. In addition to program-specific fields, an open forum provides a mechanism for readers to introduce other important topics. This open forum also allows investigators to quickly publicize emerging findings and to gather input from those who are potentially affected by their work. Both print and online versions of the new journal are being published 4 times a year. The full-text online version is available free to all 1 year after publication. This represents a unique opportunity for sharing new knowledge about medical research and progress that is not limited by geographical, financial or disciplinary boundaries. The print version is available by subscription and offers 4 free CME courses of the Distance Learning Program. The International Journal of Medicine Web site (<http://intermedjournal.page.tl>) provides access to the online journal and the interactive discussion groups, as well as information for authors and subscription information. The journal represents an unprecedented collaborative effort by 31 countries coming together to support a forum for research and the intellectual development of medical doctors and allied health professionals. The journal is overseen by independent board of representatives from these countries, that support the concept of worldwide sharing of news and information in each published

issue. The editorial and peer-review processes of the International Journal of Medicine have complete editorial independence from organizational and commercial pressures. A distinguished Editorial Board helps to guide the journal's direction and foster transdisciplinary and international participation. An international Advisory Committee assists in keeping the journal grounded in the needs of the diverse people and communities we serve. Through this editorial article, I wish to thank all Editorial Board and Advisory Committee members for supporting this unique forum. We are indebted to the many authors who have shared their work with us and to the peer reviewers who have provided the critical and constructive peer review that is the backbone of a scientific journal.

We look forward to publishing important research and reflections, and to supporting your online interactions. We appreciate the privilege of this stewardship role.

IN THIS ISSUE

The editorial on "Thesis-hunters in Greece" refers to the PhD Thesis which was transformed lately from a perquisite of regional corporate elites to a good chance available for everyone interested.¹ Silently discussed, never published in national medical journals, "painful secret" for Greek readers, interesting at least for readers of other countries. A pioneer approach by Dr Pompili² connects sleeping patterns and psychological health in young subjects, discussing the pathogenesis of depressive disorders and suicidal behaviour. A psychiatrist himself Dr Karanikas³ offers a very interesting research article on the neuroendocrine and psychiatric aspects of psoriasis. Human brain and heart are investigated in the condition of mental workload by Dr Banerjee et al⁴ who use methods of physiology to attract the interest of readers interested in neurology, cardiology and occupational health. Helen Fraggou-Massourides⁶ and colleagues, in an experimental study on apoptosis induced by teratogenic drugs, discovered that this forgotten -but lately re-popularized - category of drugs represents a new field of apoptosis research. In a promising clinical trial, professor Bruno Gossetti et al⁵ test the use of mesoglycan on walking distance in patients affected by chronic peripheral arterial occlusive disease, and support earlier data that recommend this drug in angiology therapeutics. The relationship between body fat distribution and blood disorders in patients with visceral obesity with and without diabetes is put under the microscope in the research article by pro-

fessor Avellone et al⁷ who focuses in blood disorders who supports and expands with this article prior published work by his research group. Secondary prevention is promoted through the philosophy of this study and it is rigorously documented why visceral obesity should be treated as a special category among other high -risk populations. From the field of Clinical Pediatrics, Dr Xinias et al⁸ are presenting two cases of the rare condition of benign paroxysmal torticollis of infants and discussing the pathogenesis according to current research data. Two articles in this issue relate to quality in emergency medicine; The original research article of Dr Malliaropoulos et al⁹, that deals with acute lateral ankle sprains and provides documentation for suggested strategies to accelerate rehabilitation, based on the healing pathophysiology. The case report is signed by Dr Deepak Doshi and Michael Saab¹⁰, and offers an interesting view on adult epiglottitis: discusses not only about the incidence and age of appearance but also adds perspectives about medical education in emergency medicine; hot issue for countries that do not include Emergency Medicine in the official medical specialties; Greece for example. The dark view of the continuous medical education is highlighted in a mostly journalistic and less medical article, that focuses in Laparoscopic Surgery.¹¹ Together, these two articles identify the need for an approach to health care that will be "oriented more toward patients" rather than low-cost health care services. In the last article of our first issue, the first European case of Hereditary Motor- Sensory Neuropathy and Cerebellar Atrophy is reported in a patient referred for early onset dementia evaluation.¹²

We look forward to working with you as readers, reviewers, authors and discussion participants. Please contribute your perspective at <http://intermedjournal.page.tl>.

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