

Slovenian Medical Journal, from now on the joint publication of Slovenian Medical Association and Slovenian Academy of Medical Science

Pavel Poredoš, Radko Komadina



Pavel Poredoš,
SAMS President



Radko Komadina,
SMA President

For quality pursuit of the medical profession, quality undergraduate and continuing postgraduate education are of fundamental importance. Whereas undergraduate education is based mainly on standard textbooks and lectures, of primary importance for postgraduate training, apart from professional meetings, is the professional medical written word, contained in various proceedings of seminars, books of abstracts and, above all, quality medical journals. We have access to professional medical journals in a variety of languages coming from all parts of the world. Recently, the transfer of information in the form of electronic messages has been at the forefront. Therefore, the question arises whether printed journals are still necessary at all, and whether every nation, even the smallest one, needs a journal with the professional content in its own language. Authors and publishers of both literary and technical works are firmly convinced that printed books and journals with a concrete, material shape will not fall into oblivion for a long time or ever, and that electronic records are but a poor substitute for a printed report, which in itself has a concrete visibility. An important question facing

contributors to scientific journals as well as their readers is whether it is reasonable to write in one's mother tongue when numerous quality journals are available in other languages, especially in English. It is indeed much more difficult to find quality writers for a nation of two million people than for one of a hundred million. However, professional communications in the mother tongue are not important only for conveying information, they have a key role in preserving the language, developing scientific terminology and enhancing national identity.

It is unacceptable that, in addition to Latin terms that have been preserved for centuries especially for recording diagnoses, an increasing number of foreign, largely Anglo Saxon terms, incomprehensible neologisms and abbreviations, mostly taken from English, are used in professional reports and medical records. Our teachers, most of whom are no longer among us, have taught us that every medical report or document is a reflection of its author, who when preparing it should pay attention not only to its professional content but also to the wording, carefully selecting terms that consolidate Slovenian medical terminology.

During the venerable period of its regular publication, the Slovenian Medical Journal (SMJ) has fulfilled an extremely important mission both in the field of continuing education of physicians and dentists as well as in the formation of Slovenian medical terminology. According to the revised Statute of the Slovenian Medical Association (SMA) of 14 Nov. 2016, SMJ is the central professional journal of the Slovenian Medical Association and at the same time the official publication of the umbrella organization, regional medical associations and the professional societies, associations and sections of SMA. Its founder is the Slovenian Medical Association, whose bodies through publications in SMJ ensure the necessary openness of its functioning.

Some other medical journals in Slovenia are more successful than SMJ with respect to certain criteria, such as the impact factor. However, regarding its overall contribution to the postgraduate education of Slovenian physicians and dentists, and to the consolidation of Slovenian medical terminology, SMJ is irreplaceable. The merit for this lies mainly with its editors-in-chief and their co-workers. The editorial boards of SMJ have always endeavoured to improve its quality and international recognition.

A major challenge for the present SMJ Editorial Board is to increase the international visibility and impact of the Journal. The idea therefore has emerged of making SMJ the common publication of SMA and the Slovenian Academy of Medical Science (SAMS). With the foundation of the Academy at SMA's annual convention in October 2016, the two-chamber organizational structure of SMA has been extended by an assembly of top domestic and foreign invited experts, who are to represent the highest professional and ethical level of SMA

membership. The Academy brings together elected top experts and scientists in the field of medicine and dentistry with documented research activity and publications in major international journals, who have made important contributions to the development of the health care system in Slovenia and have attained international recognition. In addition to regular members, the Academy also has honorary members. These include physicians who are members of the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as distinguished foreign physicians who closely cooperate with Slovenian health care institutions and individuals, are leading and world renowned experts and researchers in different fields of medicine, and rank among the most prolific contributors to distinguished international medical journals. Some of them (Prof. Mikhailidis, Prof. Nikolaidis) are editors-in-chief of a number of quality medical journals. On their visit to Slovenia, when they received their diplomas of honorary membership of SMA, they expressed their readiness and desire for close cooperation with SMJ; they are willing to serve on the Editorial Board of the Journal and, by contributing research review papers, enrich its content and improve its international visibility. We believe that this is a unique opportunity for SMJ to become an even more accomplished and internationally recognized professional medical journal. We therefore gladly support the initiative that it become the joint publication of SMA and SAMS. By declaring SMJ the official publication also of SAMS, we commit all its members, domestic regular and domestic and foreign honorary, to the additional pledge to make SMJ an internationally recognized professional journal in the field of medical science.

We welcome the efforts made so far by the Editor-in Chief and her co-wor-

kers, and we look forward to shared successes on our chosen path.

Pavel Poredoš, *SAMS President*

Radko Komadina, *SMA President*

Cite as: Poredoš P, Komadina R. [Slovenian Medical Journal, from now on the joint publication of Slovenian Medical Association and Slovenian Academy of Medical Science]. *Zdrav Vestn.* 2018;87(1-2):3-4.

DOI: 10.6016/ZdravWestn.2811