

Editorial

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Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Italian Society of Otorhinolaryngology which gave me the honour to be the Editor-in-Chief of its official journal, *Acta Otorhinolaryngologica Italica*, for the last 6 years. To be honest, it was a priceless privilege and an exciting experience because in these years the journal has evolved to become an indexed, frequently-cited journal with quite outstanding impact factor. I hope we have succeeded in preserving all the different aims of our diverse specialties and in publishing manuscripts dealing with all the various subareas of ENT.

For many years, this journal has been a vehicle for the delivery of timely and thoughtful information without any cost for authors, while guaranteeing open access to their manuscripts, leading to a free and maximal diffusion of its contents. We have to thank all the editorial staff who offered their service without any compensation and once again the Italian ENT society which sustained the costs of the journal in recent years, despite the economic difficulties that every member is familiar with.

Thanks to the great effort of authors, reviewers and my co-workers, in 2015 we reached the highest impact factor (1.640) in the journal's history, corresponding to a Journal Ranking of Q2 for ISI Web of Science and Q1 for Scimago. In particular, I would also like to thank our reviewers for their service to the journal and for providing the support and feedback necessary to find, develop and publish high-quality material. I think they deserve special acknowledgment because the number of manuscripts submitted was increased significantly: in 2016, we received 433 manuscripts and published 88, corresponding to a rejection rate of 75%. For this reason, the number of accepted and published manuscripts is now higher compared with past years.

In the last years, we have made some significant editorial/organisational changes together with our publisher (Pacini Editore) who we deeply thank for sustaining us in every

step of our technological improvements. Our aim, in fact, was to follow the process that had already begun with previous editors in taking the journal from its infancy to maturity. In 2011, we have refined our Author Guidelines to meet the standards set out by the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (<http://www.icmje.org>), and we also provided a template for authors to give them detailed information to make our publications as uniform as possible (please visit the journal's guide for authors www.actaitalica/journal). Since the beginning of our experience, we strongly encouraged special guests to submit well prepared review articles in all areas of clinical otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery, and giving them high priority in publication and which were frequently cited in the last 5 years. In 2013, we introduced our "Editorial Manager" which has helped us to manage the increasing number of submitted manuscripts and to assist communication with authors, reviewers and the publisher. We observed a very rapid uptake by authors to our web platform; in fact, after 18 months at least 700 authors have registered. In 2014, we introduced for the first time a digital object identifier (DOI) number for each manuscript submitted. The DOI is a unique alphanumeric string assigned by a registration agency (the International DOI Foundation) to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet. The publisher assigns a DOI when the article is published and made available electronically. In 2016, according to the request of the executive board of the Italian Society of Otorhinolaryngology, we gave our support to modify the actual official report of the annual meeting of the society that has now become a supplement of the journal and published annually. In the last years, we also modified our editing system by trying to drive it towards the possibility to put our accepted manuscripts as soon as possible in an e-pub format. Accepted manuscripts can be now downloaded early from PubMed with an important advantage in term of rates of citation.

Now that we've begun to change, we will also hope that authors, reviewers and readers will continue to follow our journal and to sustain the new editorial office and the new Editor-in-Chief in their difficult job to manage such a large volume of manuscripts. We also suggest all authors who are publishing in biomedical journals to remember to cite our high-quality manuscripts in all fields of otorhinolaryngology.

I truthfully hope that both scientists and physicians working in the field of ENT and Head and Neck surgery will

continue to follow our journal, and that you will enjoy and benefit from reading the publication at least as much I have in the past. At the same time, my best wishes to the incoming Editor-in-Chief and to the editorial staff as I am convinced that they will further increase the quality of the journal and its dissemination on an international level.

Sincerely,

Prof. Gaetano Paludetti

Editor-in-Chief - Acta Otorhinolaryngologica Italica