

Romanian Archives of Microbiology and Immunology

Opportunities for the future

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There is an obvious need for researchers (and practitioners) to share their findings and to allow others to discuss them in an open and transparent way in order to advance science and to change practice where appropriate.

Historically, scientific journals have played an important role in facilitating scientific discourse by providing structured and well-curated platforms for such exchange. The European Association of Science Editors (EASE) recently held their bi-annual conference in Bucharest, Romania. The conference theme was *Balancing Innovation and Tradition in Science Editing* [1]. In their presentations, science editors and representatives from publishers from many European and other countries and diverse disciplines, highlighted that the basic drivers of science communication have remained the same for more than two centuries, since the first scientific journals were established.

Researchers, including those from the wider biomedical field, strive to see their work published in internationally recognized high-impact journals, with the aim of advancing their careers and improving their chances of success in securing funding for their work. Metrics based on citations such as the impact factor, awarded annually [2] are considered as a

proxy of the prestige and influence of a journal. Smaller and local journals, without such metrics or not faring top in their field, are often considered less attractive for researchers. However, even though this may not be obvious on first glance, also smaller and local/regional journals have advantages over the larger, generally considered more influential, ones and they are important in the publication landscape. Publishing in such journals, provides researchers who are part of local/regional societies/communities and thus well aware of the context, with the opportunity to reach a respective audience. It enables them to highlight findings that are of local/regional interest and relevant for decision-making. Furthermore, researchers are able to highlight priority areas for future research direction pertaining to the specific context. The *Romanian Archives of Microbiology and Immunology*, established in 1928 and celebrating 90 years of existence this year is a good example in this respect.

It is also noteworthy that increasing application of molecular methods in the biomedical field and in epidemiology has strengthened the role of laboratories in surveillance and investigations of outbreaks of communicable diseases. This has been evidenced also by many recent articles in *Eurosurveillance*, the European

journal on the surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases, published by the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Sweden. In particular, in connection with outbreaks, the collaboration of epidemiologists and microbiologists has proven powerful and valuable in providing the necessary evidence for public health decision-making [3, 4, 5]. Acknowledging this, *Eurosurveillance* will publish a special issue on advanced diagnostics to inform public health policy [6] in late 2018. The increasing importance of laboratories and their tools

clearly provides also a future opportunity for the *Romanian Archives of Microbiology and Immunology*.

Besides their content, further crucial elements for the success of scientific journals are: easy access, long-term curation, quality assurance, availability in databases such as PubMed, dedication of those affiliated and full trust and support from the scientific community and the publisher. Equipped with these, the *Romanian Archives of Microbiology and Immunology* should remain an attractive journal in the future.

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