

# Europa Medicophysica, the European and Mediterranean evidence-based clinical Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine

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As you can see from our new cover page, Europa Medicophysica (EMP) is gradually changing. When it was founded in 1964, the journal received its Latin name, while the subtitle in French, English, and Italian was “The European Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation” (Figure 1) to define it as the Official Journal of the European Federation of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (EFPMR).<sup>1</sup> Now, the Federation has evolved into the European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ESPRM);<sup>2</sup> its President is Alessandro Giustini, the Coordinator of our Board of Directors, and one of its reference journals is EMP. In recent years, the specialty evolved and changed from “Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation” to the actual “Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine” (PRM)<sup>2</sup> and thus, from now on, EMP will regain its original subtitle, but in the updated and up-to-date form “*European Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*”. This label, historically warranted, will join that of “*Mediterranean Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*” to testify that it is also the official journal of the Mediterranean Forum of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (MFPRM). Nothing can illustrate our role better than these two names — we are (and want to be) the journal of Europe and the Mediterranean Basin.

There’s another novelty in the cover: there are two new country names, because EMP is now the Official English Journal of the *Hellenic Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* (Ελληνική Εταιρεία Φυσικής Ιατρικής και Ανοκατάστασης, EEFIAP)<sup>3</sup>

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(Figure 2) and the *Turkish Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialists* (Türkiye Fiziksel Tıp ve Rehabilitasyon Uzman Hekimleri Derneği, TSPMRS)<sup>4</sup> (Figure 3). In fact, we decided to link EMP to the National Scientific Societies of our regional area



Figure 1.—The first cover of the Journal at 1965.



Figure 2.—Ελληνική Εταιρεία Φυσικής Ιατρικής και Αποκατάστασης, EEFIAP (Hellenic Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation).

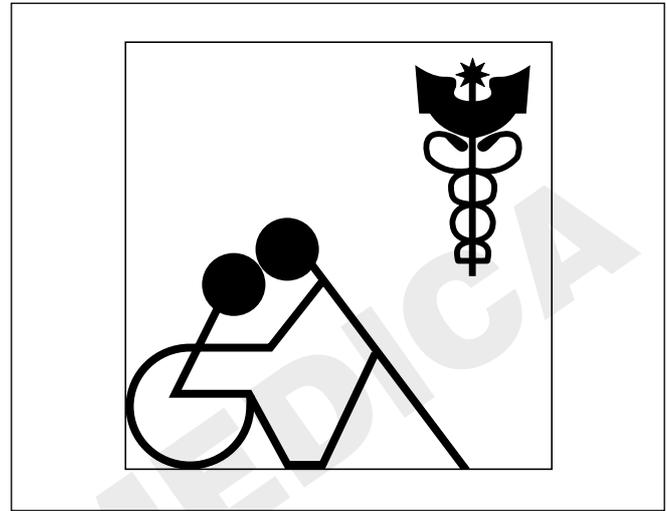


Figure 4.—Società Italiana di Medicina Fisica e Riabilitativa, SIMFER (Italian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine).



Figure 3.—Türkiye Fiziksel Tıp ve Rehabilitasyon Uzman Hekimleri Derneği, TSPMRS (Turkish Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialists).

and these are the first ones; we are fighting to make our journal well established and respected in the international scientific arena, but we also want to be a clinical journal, making research immediately useful for PRM specialists, to spread as well as generate useful knowledge. This means maintaining a continuous link to everyday clinics, and to everyday reality, and the National Scientific Societies of

Europe and the Mediterranean Area represent exactly this real everyday clinical field. PRM is rapidly growing and sometimes this creates gaps between scientists/researchers and what happens in outpatient and inpatient care; we want to remain at the ground level of PRM and avoid getting too far into the theoretical worlds of science.

There is another major point on the cover. In this process, the *Italian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* (Società Italiana di Medicina Fisica e Riabilitativa, SIMFER)<sup>5</sup> (Figure 4), which is our origin and our real strength that allowed EMP to reach all its latest achievements, gains a new and specific role as the Founder Society, while obviously remaining owner of EMP.

Moving from the outside to the inside the journal, there are some more novelties (don't be afraid, these are not the last ones!). As you already know the aim of EMP is to be an *Evidence-Based clinical rehabilitation journal*, i.e. to promote science at the highest level, but only if useful for everyday clinicians. This means that, in recent years, we have concentrated our attention on and given the maximum space to clinical studies, including randomised controlled studies, as well as broad ranging everyday clinical life papers. We looked for controlled cohort research, but also case series and/or reports on rare clinical conditions of rehabilitation interest or new rehabilitation proposals. In the same line, we published a few stud-

ies on clinical instruments, while little space was reserved for basic science and methodological papers, which were only published if they appeared of almost immediate practical clinical application. Along this line, we will start with this volume, a systematic publication of the *Cochrane reviews* of rehabilitation interest because of their high clinical importance. First, we present a review for those (few) readers who don't know what the Cochrane Institute is, including a systematic review of the PRM contents of its database.<sup>6</sup> Then we invited the first group of Cochrane reviewers.<sup>7</sup> We also have others in line for publication in future volumes and this will be done regularly in the future.

## References

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