



National Journals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Europe: a survey

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Background. The European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Journal Network (EPRMJN), a joint initiative between the European Society Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ESPRM) and the European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (EJPRM), has the aim to increase scientific knowledge among PRM specialists and foster collaboration among physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM) journals. This article reports the results of a survey of national PRM journals in Europe we conducted to obtain an overview of the current state of PRM research in the European setting. **Results.** Every year 682 PRM papers are published in a total of 66 issues per 3 294 page in the 16 national journals that responded to our survey, out of the 21 published in 15 countries; 12 countries have no PRM journals and two did not respond. Some 94% of the journals responding to the survey have a research aim and 88% an educational aim; all journals use a peer-review process (75% blinded); on average, 58.8 submissions are received per year, of which 6.7% are invited papers; the rejection rate is 21.4%. The majority of papers report original research, and main topics are musculoskeletal and neurological rehabilitation.

Conclusion. Since the national journals published in Europe have a good peer review process and publish mainly original articles, it is possible that good research can be found. A major problem is the English language barrier to wider readerships, as many researchers publish only in their native language. The EPRMJN aims to discover this research and make it accessible to international audiences through systematic collection of arti-

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cles appearing in the national journals of the EPRMJN and publication of content summaries on the ESPRM website.

KEY WORDS: Rehabilitation - Publications - Medicine in literature.

Discussions during and consensus reached at a meeting held at the 16th European Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Bruges, Belgium, led to the decision to set up the European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Journal Network (EPRMJN).^{1, 2} The aim of the EPRMJN is to increase scientific knowledge among physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM) specialists and to foster collaboration among national, regional and European PRM journals.²

One of the main goals of the EPRMJN is to create the widest possible readership of the papers published in the European journals, thus increasing the

TABLE I.—Data from the 15 national journals responding to the questionnaire.

| Country | Bulgaria | | | Croatia | France | Germany & Austria | Hungary |
|------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Journal | Превенция и рехабилитация / Prevenzija i Rehabilitazija | Неврорехабилитация / Neurorehabilitazija | Физикална медицина, рехабилитация, здраве / Fizikalna medicina, rehabilitazija, zdrave | Fizikalna i rehabilitacijska medicina | Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine - Annales de Réadaptation et de Médecine Physique | Physikalische Medizin Rehabilitationsmedizin Kurortmedizin | Rehabilitáció |
| English title | PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION | NEUROREHABILITATION | Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation, Health | Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine | Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine | Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine | Rehabilitation |
| Main language | BULGARIAN; Abstracts in English | BULGARIAN; Abstracts in English | Bulgarian | Croatian | English and French | German | Hungarian |
| Other languages | some papers in English | some papers in English | English - titles and abstracts | English | | English | English |
| Abbreviation | | | | Fiz.Rehabil.Med | Ann Phys Rehabil Med | Phys Med Rehab Kuror | |
| Publication start year | 2007 | 2007 | 2000 | 1984 | 1956 | 1991 | 1991 |
| Official Journal of | Bulgarian Neurorehabilitation Society and Bulgarian Association of Medical Rehabilitation and Ergotherapy | Bulgarian Neurorehabilitation Society | Bulgarian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitations | Croatian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine | SOFMER | DGPMR, BvdR, Ö G P M R (Ö G B M K , V Ö K) BvÖFPMR | Hungarian Society for Medical Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine |
| URL (http://) | | | | www.hdfm.com | http://www.sofmer.com | http://www.thieme.de/fz/physmed/index.html | |

| | Poland | Portugal | Slovenia | Spain | | Turkey | | UK |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| Ortopedia Traumatologia Rehabilitacja | Rehabilitacja Medyczna | Revista da Sociedade Portuguesa de Medicina Física e de Reabilitação | Rehabilitacija | Rehabilitación (Madr) | Türkiye Fiziksel Tıp ve Rehabilitasyon Dergisi | Türk Romatoloji Dergisi | Romatoloji ve Tibbi Rehabilitasyon Dergisi | Clinical Rehabilitation |
| | M e d i c a l Rehabilitation | Portuguese Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine | Rehabilitation (Ljubljana) | | The Turkish Journal of P h y s i c a l Medicine and Rehabilitation | Turkish Journal Of Rheumatology | The Journal of Rheumatology and Medical Rehabilitation | Clinical Rehabilitation |
| Polish, English | Polish | Portuguese | Slovenian | Spanish | Turkish | English (2010) | Turkish English | English |
| | English | E n g l i s h , French and Spanish | English | abstracts in English | English | Turkish English (till 2010) | | |
| Ortop Traumatol Rehabil | | Revista da SPMFR | | Rehabilitación | Turk J Phys Med Rehab | TJR | | |
| 1999 | 1997 | 1993 | 2002 | 1967 | 1954 | 1975 | 1989 | |
| Committee on Rehabilitation, Physical Education and Social Integration, Division VI of Medical Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences; Polish Society of Orthopaedic and Traumatology Polish Society of Physiotherapy | | Portuguese Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine | Slovenian PRM Society | S p a n i s h Society of P h y s i c a l Medicine and Rehabilitation | T u r k i s h Society of P h y s i c a l Medicine and Rehabilitation | T u r k i s h L e a g u e A g a i n s t Rheumatism (Tlar) | T u r k i s h Society of Rheabilitational Medicine | B r i t i s h Society for Rehabilitation M e d i c i n e (BSRM) |
| www.ortope- dia.com.pl | www.reh- med.pl | www.spm- fr.org | http://ibmi.m f . u n i - lj.si/rehabili- tacija/ | www.ser- mef.es | www.ftrdergi- si.com | romatizma- dergisi.org | turktibbi- rehab.org | |

(Continued)

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| Country | Bulgaria | | Croatia | | France | Germany & Austria | Hungary |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| Journal | Prevenzija i Rehabilitazija | Neurorehabilitazija | Fizikalna medicina, rehabilitazija, zdrave | Fizikalna i rehabilitacijska medicina | Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine - Annales de Réadaptation et de Médecine Physique | Physikalische Medizin Rehabilitationsmedizin Kurortmedizin | Rehabilitáció |
| Cited in databases | | | | | PubMed | SCOPUS, SCIE Expanded, Research Alert and Focus On: Sports Science & Medicine | |
| Aims | Research & education | Research, education, clinical practice | Research & education | Research information- & education | Research & education | Research & education | Research, education & news |
| Peer review | Not blinded | Blinded | Not blinded | Blinded | Blinded | Blinded | Blinded |
| Chief editor | Prof. Iveta Koleva | Prof. Iveta Koleva | Troichov Troev, sub-editor Asoc prof Marin Marinkev, MD, PhD | Prof. Simeon Grazio | André THEVENON | Ulrich Smolenski | C. Ferenc Katona, MD., D.Sc. |
| Chief editor E-mail | yvette@cc.bas.bg | yvette@cc.bas.bg | phyzmed@techno-link.com | simeon.grazio@zg.t-com.hr | athevenon@chru-lille.fr | Ulrich.Smolenski@med.uni-jena.de | fejlodes.neuro@freemail.hu |
| Publisher | SIMEL PRINT, Sofia, Bulgaria | SIMEL PRINT, Sofia, Bulgaria | "Bulpak" Kazanluk Co, Hristo Stanchev | Croatian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine | Elsevier Masson SAS | Georg Thieme Verlag KG | Tudomány Kiadó Kft. |
| Publisher E-mail | | | | sasa.moslavac@vz.t-com.hr | Annalesrmp@CHRU-LILLE.FR | | tudomány@tudomány-kiado.hu |
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| Poland | | Portugal | Slovenia | Spain | Turkey | | UK | |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Ortopedia Traumatologia Rehabilitacja | Rehabilitacja Medyczna | Revista da Sociedade Portuguesa de Medicina Fisica e de Reabilitação | Rehabilitacija | Rehabilitación (Madr) | Türkiye Fiziksel Tıp ve Rehabilitasyon Dergisi | Türk Romatoloji Dergisi | Romatoloji ve Tibbi Rehabilitasyon Dergisi | Clinical Rehabilitation Clinical Rehabilitation |
| PubMed/MED LINE, SCOPUS, Index Copernicus | Copernicus, SPO | | COBISS | EMBASE/excerpta medica, | Excerpta Medica/EMBASE, SCOPUS, SPORTDiscus with Full Text (EBSCOhost), Gale/Cengage Learning, CINAHL, Index Copernicus, DOAJ, Turkish Medline-National Citation Index and TUBITAK /ULAKBIM databases. | | | |
| Research, education & information | Research & education | Research & education | Research & education | Research & education | Research & education | Research | Research | Research & education |
| Blinded | Blinded | Blinded | Not blinded | Blinded | Blinded | Blinded | Blinded | Blinded |
| DARIUSZ BIA, OSZEWSKI | Janusz Bromboszcz | Catarina Aguiar Branco | Crt Marincek, Gaj Vidmar | Francisco J. Juan | Dilsad Sindel | Deniz Evcik | Zaferr Hascelik | Derick Wade |
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| MEDSPORT- PRESS Publishing House | Elipsa - JAIM s.c. | Portuguese Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine | University Rehabilitation Institute, Republic of Slovenia | ELSEVIER- DOYMA | Galenos Yaynevi | AVES Yaynevik | Türkiye Klinikleri | |
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| www.med-sport.pl | www.reh-med.pl | www.spmfr.org | www.ir-rs.si | | www.galenos.com.tr | www.avesyayincilik.com | www.turkiyeklinikleri.com | |

TABLE II.—Current situation of the national journals in Europe and data collected with this survey.

| Country | EJPRM is the Official Journal | National Journals | Questionnaire answered | Member of ESPRM |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Italy | Yes (SIMFER) | | | Yes |
| Cyprus | Yes | | | Yes |
| Greece | Yes (EEFIAP) | | | Yes |
| Turkey | Yes (TSPRMS) | 3 | 3 | Yes |
| Austria | With Germany | | Yes | |
| Bulgaria | | 4 | 3 | Yes |
| Croatia | | 1 | 1 | Yes |
| France | | 1 | 1 | Yes |
| Germany | | 1 | 1 | Yes |
| Hungary | | 1 | 1 | Yes |
| Portugal | | 1 | 1 | Yes |
| Romania | | 1 | | Yes |
| Serbia and Montenegro | | 1 | | Yes |
| Slovakia | | 1 | | Yes |
| Slovenia | | 1 | 1 | Yes |
| Spain | | 1 | 1 | Yes |
| UK | | 1 | 1 | Yes |
| Czech Republic | | 1 | | |
| Poland | | 2 | 1 | |
| Belgium | | | | Yes |
| Denmark | | | | Yes |
| Estonia | | | | Yes |
| Finland | | | | Yes |
| Ireland | | | | Yes |
| Latvia | | | | Yes |
| Lithuania | | | | Yes |
| Norway | | ? | | Yes |
| Sweden | | | | Yes |
| Switzerland | | | | Yes |
| The Netherlands | | | | Yes |
| Iceland | | ? | | |
| Luxembourg | | | | |
| Malta | | | | |
| Total | 4 | 21 | 15 | 28 |
| | ?: No answers | | | |

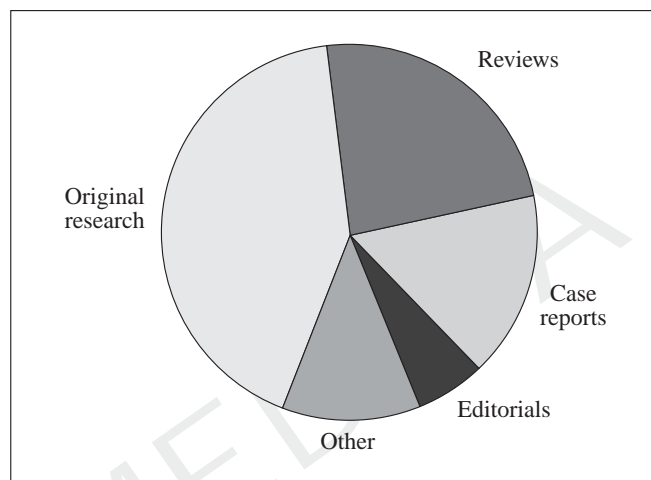


Figure 1.—Type of papers published by the national PRM journals in Europe.

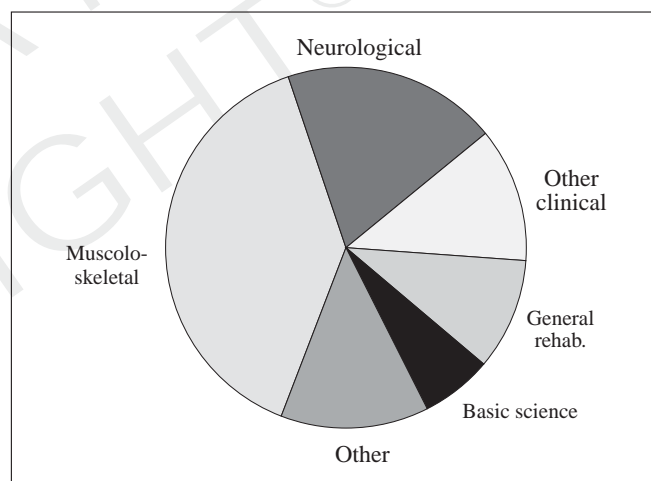


Figure 2.—Topics of papers published in the national PRM journals in Europe.

visibility of European research and promoting the high quality of PRM research and knowledge across Europe. Another aim is to develop collaboration with international journals such as the Euro-American Focus between the *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* (EJPRM) and the *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*.³⁻¹⁵

The EPRMJN started in 2009 with a first series of articles published in the EJPRM.^{2, 16} The next stage of

development of the EPRMJN is to become acquainted with the situation of national journals in European countries, so as to strengthen the Network by including the national journals, and to propose initiatives to make what is published nationally more widely accessible. For this reason, the EJPRM in collaboration with ESPRM asked the national representatives of the ESPRM to fill in a questionnaire together with the editor of their national journal. We also reached some European national journals whose country is not yet

a member of the ESPRM: these journals were included in the survey, although they will not be part of the EPRMJN.

This article reports the survey results with an overview of the current state of PRM research in Europe.

Materials and methods

A previously presented questionnaire² was sent to ESPRM representatives with an explanation letter requesting them to complete it in as much detail as possible, including yearly data. The questionnaire items investigated general data of the national journals, the chief editor and publisher, along with specific data on the number of papers published (original articles, reviews, case reports, etc.) per year in the last three years. All data were summarised and are reported with descriptive statistics in this article.

Results

A total of 21 national journals appearing in 15 countries were surveyed (Tables I, II): Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, France, Germany and Austria, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the UK. Bulgaria has 4 journals, Turkey 3 and Poland 2. No national journal is published in 12 countries (Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands), while Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and Italy (the founder) have the *EJPRM* as their official journal. Only Iceland and Norway did not respond to the survey.

The questionnaires were completed and returned by 16 national journals (76.2%): data are missing from Romania, Serbia, Montenegro and Slovakia, and from one journal from Bulgaria.

Three journals receive papers also from others countries: 94% have a research aim and 88% an educational aim, 19% also give information. All journals use a peer-review process (75% blinded): 64% with 2 and 36% with three reviewers.

Considering the last three years, on average, 58.8 submissions are received each year (range 4-162.3)

and 48.7 papers published (2-106), of which 6.7% are invited papers; the rejection rate is 21.4% (0-54%). Taken together, every year an average of 823 papers are submitted (the submission rates for *Clinical Rehabilitation*, *The Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*, and *The Journal of Rheumatology and Medical Rehabilitation* are missing) and 682 are published (complete data from all journals) in a total of 66 issues per 3294 pages. The majority of papers report original research, followed by reviews, case reports, others and editorials (Figure 1). The main topics are musculoskeletal and neurological rehabilitation (Figure 2).

Discussion

In Europe every year, a consistent body of literature regularly appears in 21 national PRM journals from 15 different countries. Most of the papers report on research and are published in languages other than English. It is highly likely that good research can be found since the journals use a peer-review process with blind review by at least two reviewers (three in 38% of cases). It is also possible that duplicates may be found, as some authors present preliminary data in their own language before submitting them in a final format for publication in a major international journal. Nevertheless, the problem of the English language barrier persists for researchers who publish only in their native language in a national journal.

The aim of the EPRMJN is to discover this research and make it accessible to international audiences through systematic collection of articles appearing in the national journals in the EPRMJN and publication of content summaries on the ESPRM website.

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