



The European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Journal Network: historical notes on national journals

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Aim. In the last 40 years, physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM) has made significant steps forward in Europe with the foundation of the European Federation of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (EFPMR) (1963) which gave rise to the European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ESPRM) (2004) the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (1970), the PRM Section of the European Union of Medical Specialists (1974), and the European Board of PRM (1991). Our journal, formerly *Europa Medico-physica* (1964), the official journal of the EFPMR, now *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* (EJPRM) and official journal of the ESPRM since 2008, is distinct for its steadfast European vocation, long-standing Mediterranean interests and connections with various national scientific societies. Jointly with the ESPRM, efforts are under way to set up the European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Journal Network (EPRMJN). The aim of this article is to present a profile of the national journals in the EPRMJN so as to give a better overview of how the scientific part of PRM in Europe has developed within a national perspective.

Methods. A profile of the following national journals is presented: *Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* (France), *Fizikalna i rehabilitacijska medicina* (*Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*) (Croatia), *Neurorehabilitation* (Bulgaria), *Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Portuguese Society Journal* (Portugal), *Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation, Health* (Bulgaria), *Physikalische Medizin - Rehabilitationsmedizin - Kurortmedizin/Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* (Germany and Austria) *Prevention and Rehabilitation* (Bulgaria), *Rehabilitacija* (*Rehabilitation*) (Slovenia), *Rehabilitación* (Madr) (Spain), *Turkish Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* (Turkey).

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Conclusion. Some national journals in Europe have a very long history and tradition of research and education. Having a better knowledge of these realities, usually hidden to the international readership owing to the English language barrier, could promote science in our specialty.

KEY WORDS: Rehabilitation - Literature- Publications.

Physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM) in Europe has a long history.^{1,2} Significant milestones in its development are the foundation of the European Federation of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (EFPMR) (1963) which gave rise to the European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ESPRM) (2004) of the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (1970), of the PRM Section of the European Union of Medical Specialists (PRM-UEMS) (1974), and of the European Board of PRM (1991).

TABLE I.—List of the journal title, country and name of the authors who wrote the profile.

Journal	Country	Author
<i>Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine</i>	France	André Thevenon
<i>Fizikalna i rehabilitacijska medicina (Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine)</i>	Croatia	Simeon Grazio
<i>Neurorehabilitation</i>	Bulgaria	Ivet Koleva
<i>Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Portuguese Society Journal</i>	Portugal	Catarina Aguiar Branco
<i>Physical Medicine, Rehabilaton, Health</i>	Bulgaria	Marin Marinkev, Elena Ilieva
<i>Physikalische Medizin - Rehabilitationsmedizin - Kurortmedizin (Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine)</i>	Germany, Austria	Hartmut Kuhlmann
<i>Prevention and Rehabilitation</i>	Bulgaria	Ivet Koleva
<i>Rehabilitacija (Rehabilitation)</i>	Slovenia	Crt Marinček, Gaj Vidmar
<i>Rehabilitación (Madr)</i>	Spain	Francisco J. Juan
<i>Turkish Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation</i>	Turkey	Dilsad Sindel

Founded as *Europa Medicophysica* in 1964, renamed the *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* (EJPRM), the *Journal* has contributed to the growth of PRM in Europe.³ Since its foundation, the *Journal* has been the official organ of the EFPMR and the Società Italiana di Medicina Fisica e Riabilitativa (Italian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, SIMFER). Serving on the European Editorial Board were 28 members from 17 countries, while on the Italian Board there were 13 members. The *Journal* was divided in two sections, with papers in English or French appearing in the international part and those in Italian in the Italian part.

A database search of Index Medicus/Medline in the general rehabilitation journal category revealed that there were only two European journals published in those years: *Rehabilitation* (England, 1948-1977) and *Die Rehabilitation* (Germany, 1962). Of those still publishing worldwide, only the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* (USA, 1953) and the *Journal of Rehabilitation* (USA, 1945) had begun to circulate.

Since its foundation, the *Journal* has maintained its European vocation, together with a strong Mediterranean interest (the second name of the *Journal* is *Mediterranean Journal of Physical Rehabilitation Medicine*),^{4, 5} and a strong connection with national realities: SIMFER since the beginning, later joined by the Greek (EEFIAP), Turkish (TSPRMS) and Cypriot national PRM societies.⁵ In view of the *Journal's* history, along with its continuing rapid growth, from inclusion in PubMed/Medline in 2005,⁶ to being renamed *European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* (EJPRM) in 2008,⁷ to inclusion in the ISI Index the same year, which will grant the Impact Factor as of 2010, we decided to set up the

European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Journal Network (EPRMJN) in joint collaboration with the ESPRM.^{8, 9} We thought it appropriate, therefore, to give a profile of the national journals making up the EPRMJN so as to have a better overview of how of the scientific part of PRM in Europe has developed within a national perspective.

Materials and methods

After collecting a list of the European national journals through the ESPRM representatives, as reported in another article in this issue of the EJPRM, we asked the Chief Editors of each national journal to write a profile of their journal, reporting details on its history and general contents. Out of the 21 national journals appearing in 15 European countries, we requested profiles of journals only from those member countries of the ESPRM eligible for membership in the EPRMJN: Bulgaria (four journals), Croatia, France, Germany and Austria, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey (three journals), and the UK. The Czech Republic and Poland (two journals) were excluded because they do not belong to the ESPRM and cannot, therefore, join the EPRMJN.

Results

Profiles of nine journals were returned and these are going to constitute the first nucleus of the EPRMJN. Table I lists the journal title, country and name of the authors who wrote the profile.

Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (France)

The Société Nationale Française de Rééducation was founded in 1952. In 1957, the French PRM pioneers held their first National Congress and published the first issue of the *Annales de Médecine Physique*. After the official French name of our medical specialty became *rééducation et réadaptation fonctionnelle*, the society changed its name into Société Française de Rééducation Fonctionnelle, de Réadaptation et de Médecine Physique (SOFMERR) and the journal became the *Annales de Réadaptation et de Médecine Physique*. With Michel Perrigot as chief editor, the number of issues jumped from four to eight a year and the *Annales* started to appear in bibliographic databases. In 2000, the society decided to adopt the official, international name of our specialty and so the SOFMERR became the SOFMER the *Société Française de Médecine Physique et de Réadaptation*, 2003 was another milestone year for the journal, with the appointment of Michel Revel as chief editor. The *Annales* became a key journal in French-speaking countries, with a significant proportion of articles from Africa. In view of our simulated impact factor, we had long been expecting to be included in the *Social Sciences Citation Index*[®]. We failed and, in 2007, we even wondered whether we should maintain our editorial policy as a science journal or turn the *Annales* into an educational journal. We decided to do both; to strengthen the educational part (and in addition to the publication of conventional reviews and practice guidelines from health authorities), we developed our own methodology for establishing guidelines. The first themes were physical activity and lower limb arthrosis, pain in spinal injury and guidelines on the management of stroke patients. Guidelines on shaken babies will follow shortly. To strengthen the scientific part and attract new authors, we decided to become a bilingual journal and translate all our articles into English or into French free of charge. We hope that this dual strategy will meet the expectations of the *Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine's* 1 000 subscribers.

Fizikalna i rehabilitacijska medicina (Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine) (Croatia)

Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine is the official peer-reviewed journal of the Croatian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, Croatian Medical

Association. Founded in 1984, the journal appears twice a year as a double issue (No. 1-2/3-4) and covers topics on PRM as well as interdisciplinary fields of rehabilitation. The journal publishes reviews and original articles that report on important trends and developments in the field, case reports and informs rehabilitation professionals of developments in the non-clinical aspects of their practice. It is mainly focused on topics of interest to rehabilitation professionals. It brings readers relevant information on the therapeutic utilization of physical and pharmaceutical agents in providing comprehensive care for persons with disabilities and chronically ill individuals. Supplements with abstracts or full texts presented at congresses or symposia are also occasionally published (*e.g.*, Sudeck's syndrome in 2001, "The Croatian-Slovenian Symposium on Rehabilitation Medicine" in 2007), as well as information about the activities of the Croatian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine and its members in Croatia and abroad. Articles are published in Croatian (with Abstract and key words in English) or in English (with Abstract and key words in Croatian). The editors are very proud to have published the Croatian translation of The White Book on Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Europe (Eds. Christoph Gutenbrunner, Anthony B Ward, M Anne Chamberlain), which was among the first non-English versions. Editors-in-Chief: Ivo Jajic (1984-1998), Ladislav Krapac (1999-2004), Tomislav Nemcic (2005-2009) and Simeon Grazio (2009-).

Neurorehabilitation (Bulgaria)

The development of our specialty the physical and rehabilitation medicine in Bulgaria in the last years was accelerated by the integration of our country in the European Community. The interdisciplinary situation of some fields of PRM and the closed collaboration with different specialists (of neurology, neurosurgery, psychology, logopedy, sociology) imposed the necessity of integration of all members of the rehabilitation team (medical and paramedical staff, under the supervision of a PRM doctor). With the principal goal to be useful for our patients in 2007 we founded the *Bulgarian Neurorehabilitation Society*, with scientific journal *Neurorehabilitation* (edited from the same year). President of Bulgarian Neurorehabilitation Society and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Neurorehabilitation* is prof. Iveta Koleva, DM, PhD, DMSc, specialist of neurology and PRM specialist.

Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Portuguese Society Journal (Portugal)

The Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Portuguese Society Journal (SPMFR Journal) is published biannually since 1992, and is a reference for all Portuguese PRM Colleagues and other Portuguese Medical Societies. The SPMFR Journal goal is to publish scientific articles (both original and reviews), as well as scientific posters, abstracts, letters to the editor, scientific news and editorials, by PRM Specialists and others working or researching on PRM. All manuscripts must be submitted according to the requirements of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Scientific articles can be submitted in Portuguese, English, French or Spanish. They are subjected to a Peer Review process, involving the Editor-in-Chief, Associated Editors and Reviewers (republished in June 2009, SPMFR Journal n. 1, vol. I, year 17). The SPMFR Journal has a large Editorial Board including PRM Specialists and others with a strait link to our specialty. Scientific articles accuracy, as well as all opinions stated in these ones are solely the Authors responsibility. The medium number of published scientific articles in each SPMFR Journal is seven, especially concerning rehabilitation in muscle-skeletal pathologies, neurological diseases (stroke, TBI, spinal cord injuries, peripheral neuropathies), cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, amputees and prosthesis, orthotics, pediatrics, rheumatological disorders, gait, electrotherapy, sports injuries, pain, oncologic disorders, medical hidrology, balneotherapy and functional assessment outcome and measurement.

Physical Medicine, Rehabilitaton, Health (Bulgaria)

Physical Medicine, Rehabilitaton, Health (Bulgaria) is the official journal of the Bulgarian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The journal was founded in 2002. It is the successor of the Journal of Physical, Health Resort and Rehabilitation Medicine, which has been published since 1964 as the official journal of the Scientific Society of Physiotherapy and Health resort medicine. From 1964 to 1991 its name was Curortology and Physiotherapy. The journal publishes four issues per year, peer reviewed articles. The journal publishes reviews and original articles of scientific and clinical value in the field of physical and rehabilitation medicine, case reports, book reviews, editorials, full-texts of papers presented at congresses and conferences, practical information,

presentation of health resorts, papers concerning education and competences, information about the activities of the Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and its members in Bulgaria and abroad. The articles are published in Bulgarian with the abstracts and key words in English. Recently we started to publish articles of authors from abroad, which are translated in Bulgarian. The Editors-in-chief were: Vesselina Edreva, Marin Marinkev and the present editor-in-chief is Troicho Troev.

Physikalische Medizin - Rehabilitationsmedizin - Kurortmedizin (Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine) (Germany, Austria)

The Editor-in-Chief is Prof. Dr. Ulrich Smolenski (Jena), and it is the Official Organ of: German Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, German Association of Professional Physicians Rehabilitation Medicine, Austrian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, Austrian Association of Professional Physicians in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. It is published in 6 issues per year. Articles are in German and English. Scientific articles are available online at www.thieme.de/physmed. There is an online manuscript submission via <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/physmed>. Scope of the journal is to publish original papers, case reports and educational articles in physical medicine and rehabilitation medicine. It also publishes congress abstracts, news from the societies and associations. The history of the journal goes back to 1898, when the Zeitschrift für diätetische und physikalische Therapie was founded by Thieme. In the following years, balneology and climatology were added to the scope of the journal. After World War II, two journals were founded in the GDR and two in the FRG, all supported by their respective scientific societies. GDR (East Germany): 1953 Archiv für Physikalische Therapie, Balneologie und Klimatologie; 1971 Zeitschrift; 1971 Zeitschrift für Physiotherapie. FRG (West Germany): 1970 Zeitschrift für Physikalische Medizin, 1980 Zeitschrift für physikalische Medizin, Balneologie, medizinische Klimatologie. These journals merged in 1991 to form Physikalische Medizin, Rehabilitationsmedizin, Kurortmedizin. In 2009, the journal received the English subtitle Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, and joined the European Journals Network. 2009 was also the year the journal started publishing CME articles.

Prevention and Rehabilitation (Bulgaria)

Prevention and Rehabilitation (Bulgaria) is the official journal of the Bulgarian Neurorehabilitation Society and the Bulgarian Association of Medical Rehabilitation and Ergotherapy. The journal was founded in 2007, imposed by the necessity of collaboration with other medical and paramedical specialist, including rheumatologists, cardiologists, neurologists, radiologists, psychologists, ergotherapists, etc. It is the successor of the Scientific Journal *Balneoclimatology and Physical therapy*, published since 1974 as official journal of the Scientific Institute of Physical therapy, Balneology and Rehabilitation - Sofia, like a scientific journal in the network of the Centre of Medical Information at the Medical University of Sofia; with editor-in-chief prof. Vesselina Edreva, DM, PhD, PRM specialist and specialist in Balneology of the Republic of Bulgaria, scientific secretary Dr Ivet Koleva. From 2007 the Editor-in-Chief of the journal Prevention and Rehabilitation is prof. Ivet Koleva, DM, PhD, DMSc.

Rehabilitacija (Rehabilitation) (Slovenia)

The first rehabilitation journal in independent Slovenia was *Gib* (Movement), which has been published from 1992 to 2001 at the University Rehabilitation Institute in Ljubljana. The name of the journal was changed and its scope broadened in 2002, with the first issue of *Rehabilitacija* (Rehabilitation). Since then, eight volumes with 16 issues (some of them double issues) have been published with an increasing share of papers in English by (co-)authors from other countries. Almost 300 papers have been published so far, mostly (but not only) in neurological and musculoskeletal rehabilitation. The official Aims and Scope define *Rehabilitation* as a national and international scientific and professional journal that publishes peer-reviewed papers from all fields related to rehabilitation. It is intended for health professionals, researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, and the general public interested in PRM, assessment of functioning and outcomes in rehabilitation, rehabilitation nursing, vocational rehabilitation, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, rehabilitation psychology, special education, social work for community health, environmental factors of inclusion, assistive technologies, rehabilitation engineering, sports, and other related fields and issues. Proceedings from major rehabilitation professional meetings are published as supplements to the journal. In 2009, lec-

tures from the 20th Rehabilitation Days entitled "Rehabilitation in the Future" were published in this form; in 2010, the 21st Rehabilitation Days will be entitled "Evidence-based Rehabilitation". The Editorial Board of *Rehabilitation* (Ljubljana), as the journal is now officially called in English, is composed of renowned experts from different professions from Slovenia and abroad. Full texts of all articles published since 2008, together with detailed information about the journal, are freely available online in Slovenian and English versions at the website <http://ibmi.mf.uni-lj.si/rehabilitacija/>.

Rehabilitación (Madr) (Spain)

Published continuously since 1967 under the title of *Rehabilitación* (Madr), the journal is included in the databases IME (Spanish Medical Index), BIOSIS, Bibliomed, Sedbase, CINAHL, SCOPUS, Pascal, IBECs, EMBASE / Excerpta Medica. It is the official organ of the Spanish Society of Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine (SERMEF) and is the co-official organ of the scientific PRM societies of South and Latin American countries: Venezuela, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Argentina and Paraguay. *Rehabilitación* published by Elsevier (ISSN 0048-7120) appears quarterly, with topics relevant for PRM. All papers are evaluated by the Editorial Board and external anonymous reviewers (peer-reviewed). Manuscripts must follow the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (www.icmje-org). The journal sections are editorials, original case reports, reviews, letters to the editor, book reviews, news and special articles. One issue per year is dedicated to a monographic theme. The online edition is available in color and the print edition in black and white.

Turkish Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

The *Turkish Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, the official organ of the Turkish Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has been published since 1954. It is published quarterly (March, June, September and December) in Turkish and English. In addition, two supplement issues are released in April and October. The aim of the *Journal* is to publish original research papers of highest scientific and clinical relevance for PRM, in addition to

reviews of basic innovations in education, short notes, case reports, original visual materials, letters from specialists in physical medicine, rheumatology and rehabilitation. The *Journal* is an independent, peer-reviewed international periodical and is indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-E), 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.

Conclusions

This short overview of nine journals that form today the EPRMJN provides a thumbnail sketch of the European PRM periodical landscape: some date their beginnings to the 1950s, others are of more recent origin. Notably, Europe enjoys a long history and tradition of research and education promoted through these journals. What clearly emerges is the variety of PRM, its history and its ability to renew and adapt to a changing world. This is particularly true in Europe, where an agenda to push toward unity also operates in PRM.¹⁰⁻¹⁶ A better knowledge of these realities, usually hidden to the international readership owing to the English language barrier, could help to increase science in PRM.

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