

## EDITORIAL



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# An outstanding first Impact Factor of 2.246 for the European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, official journal of SIMFER, ESPRM, and MFPMR, and now also published “in association with” ISPRM

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First JCR Impact Factor (2010) for the European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (EJPRM): 2.246!

We were anticipating quite a good Impact Factor (between 1.5 and 1.8), and we were sure that it would have definitively confirmed that the EJPRM is among the top physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM) journals, as it has been defined by the European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ESPRM),<sup>1-3</sup> but we did not expect to be at the same level as the first one!

TABLE I.—First 20 Journals in the Rehabilitation Category as defined by JCR – Science Edition 2010.

Rank	Journal	2010 Impact Factor
1	Neurorehabil Neural Repair	3.772
2	J Head Trauma Rehabil	2.779
3	Phys Ther	2.645
4	J Neuroeng Rehabil	2.638
5	J Orthop Sports Phys Ther	2.538
6	J Electromyogr Kinesiol	2.372
7	Arch Phys Med Rehabil	2.254
8	<b>Eur J Phys Rehabil Med</b>	<b>2.246</b>
9	Aust J Physiother	2.185
10	IEEE Trans Neural Syst Rehabil Eng	2.182
11	Support Care Cancer	2.058
12	J Rehabil Med	1.967
13	Spinal Cord	1.826
14	Clin Rehabil	1.772
15	Am J Phys Med Rehabil	1.762
16	Brain Inj	1.750
17	J Rehabil Res Dev	1.708
18	Man Ther	1.686
19	Disabil Rehabil	1.489
20	J Manip Physiol Ther	1.418

Chief-Editor European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine

In Table I the first 20 journals of the entire category Rehabilitation of the JCR – Science Edition 2010 are presented: the EJPRM ranks 8<sup>th</sup> according to the Impact Factor value. Nevertheless, if you look at the Top Journals as defined by ESPRM, the EJPRM ranks 2<sup>nd</sup>, only 0.08 points below the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (Table II).

In the last few years, the EJPRM has been one of the components integrally linked to the continuous rapid growth of science and research in PRM, with the impossibility to distinguish which contributed more to the other.<sup>2, 4-8</sup>

In the perspective of the EJPRM, the consecutive steps of this growth include:

TABLE II.—Impact Factor and Scimago Journal Rank Indicator of the Top PRM Journals, as defined by ESPRM.<sup>2, 3</sup>

Journal	Impact Factor		Scimago Journal Rate	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Arch Phys Med Rehabil	2.254	7	0.160	4
<b>Eur J Phys Rehabil Med</b>	<b>2.246</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.129</b>	<b>9</b>
J Rehabil Med	1.967	12	0.154	*
Clin Rehabil	1.772	14	0.140	6
Am J Phys Med Rehabil	1.762	15	0.125	11
Disabil Rehabil	1.489	19	0.097	21

\*The Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine is not classified by Scimago in the category Rehabilitation but rather in the category Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

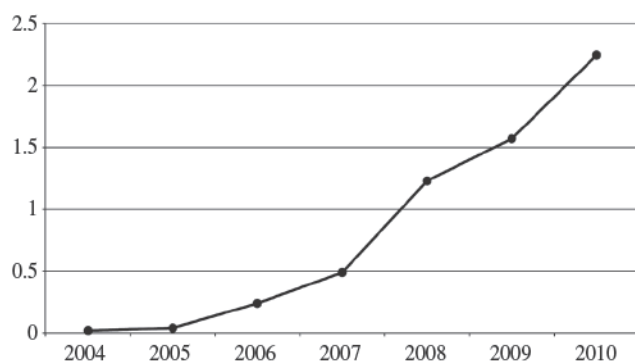


Figure 1.—Evolution of the Impact Factor of the EJPRM (Europa Medicophysica until 2007) since 2004. Until 2009 the Impact Factor has been unofficially calculated by our Editorial Office.

- Medline/PubMed listing since 2005;<sup>9</sup>
- publication of the European White Book in 2006;<sup>10-12</sup>
- e-Pub and Free Full Text (Open Access) since 2007;<sup>13</sup>
- Cochrane Reviews publication,<sup>14-19</sup> with the Cochrane Systematic Rehabilitation Update 15, 20-27 since 2007;
- the change of the name from Europa Medicophysica (EMP) to EJPRM in 2008;<sup>6</sup>
- the collaboration with the American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, through the Euro-American Focus since 2008;<sup>28-35</sup>
- the confirmation of the Journal as the official journal of ESPRM in 2008;<sup>1, 3, 5, 36</sup>
- the European PRM Journals' Network initiative in 2009.<sup>2, 3, 37</sup>

The last of these achievements was granted in Puerto Rico in June 2011, when the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM) recognized the EJPRM as published "in association with" ISPRM: in this way, the EJPRM, born in 1964 as the official journal of the Italian Society of PRM (SIMFER) and the former European Federation of PRM (EFPMR),<sup>8</sup> joins the world Society of our specialty, together with the European (ESPRM) and Mediterranean ones (MFPMR). As a consequence, today we can distribute the links to free full text of our journal to all ISPRM members, strengthening the visibility of EJPRM all over the world. But, without the increasing scientific strength of the Journal, and choices like the immediate free full text, the ePub,

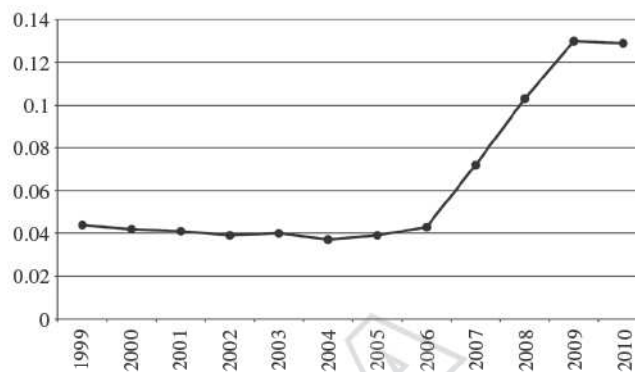


Figure 2.—Evolution of the Scimago Journal Rate of the EJPRM since 1999.

and the wide representativeness of the Editorial Board, this agreement would have not been possible.

The growth of the EJPRM has been confirmed by the most important bibliometric indices,<sup>4</sup> like the Impact Factor (calculated unofficially by our Editorial Office until now) (Figure 1), and the Scimago Journal Rank Indicator (Figure 2). Obviously, due to the rapid growth in this period, all the new indices based on a 5-year window will require a longer period of time to become as positive as those based on the classical 2-year period.

Today, the EJPRM is recognized by most scientists in the field (mainly European, but not only) as a serious and important output for their research efforts, as testified in this issue of the Journal by Franchignoni. In fact, the EJPRM ranks 2<sup>nd</sup>, immediately after the Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine, as the preferred by 24 of the top European PRM researchers (randomly chosen from the list of those attending the ESPRM 2010 Meeting as Invited Lecturer or Chairperson): 19 of them published at least one paper in the EJPRM between 1996 and 2010.

As always, any achievement is the time for recognition of the people who worked for it, but also the moment to look at the future. Gratitude comes first, and goes to:

- the previous Chief-Editors who made all this history possible: the founder of EMP Dario Fian-desio† (1964-86), and then Silvano Boccardi (1987-91), Franco Franchignoni (1992-5), and Paolo Di Benedetto (1995-2004).<sup>38</sup>

- the SIMFER Presidents (Alessandro Giustini, Raffaele Gimigliano, David Fletzer) with their Secretaries (Pasquale Pace†, Domenico Uliano) and Boards.



— the ESPRM, EFPMR and MFPMR Presidents: Alessandro Giustini, Henk Stam, and Nicholas Christoudoulou.

— the Associate and Assistant Editors who worked with us from the beginning: Haim Ring†, Gerold Stucki, Donatella Bonaiuti, Maria Gabriella Ceravolo, and Nicola Smania; after a couple of years, the Assistant Editors increased with July Treger, Martin Weigl, and Gunes Yavuzer; finally, in the last two years Mauro Zampolini joined the EJPRM as Associate Editor and Marco Di Monaco, Marco Franceschini and Silvia Sterzi as Assistant Editors.

— the Scientific Secretaries: Marco Monticone for a short period, then Marco Paoloni and Fabio Zaina, recently joined by Nikos Barotsis and Giorgio Ferrero.

— Minerva Medica, Alberto Oliaro, and Tommaso Oliaro†, the co-founder of EMP: in these last years, Paola Abrate, Eugenia Battaglio, Marcella Merlo, and Barbara Murzone worked for the EJPRM.

— The members of the Editorial Board and Board of Directors who changed quite a lot in these years, following the growth of the Journal, and cannot be named one by one.

— The Reviewers who made a tremendous effort to increase the quality of the published papers, and who are rarely recognized for a hidden yet fundamental contribution to the growth of science.

— The authors of the papers: some of them believed in the Journal since the beginning, and now their faith is recognized with the value of the Journal that goes back to them, on their work and studies.

— And finally, the readers. You are our greatest value. We aim at producing a journal that is clinically useful, and without you all this would be meaningless, just a play for power and useless “science” (it is possible that science becomes useless when it is sterile and detached from reality, which in our field is the clinics). Today, our web site testifies to the increasing interest in the EJPRM: we have reached more than 8000 visits/month with 3 page view each; 1 out of 5 comes from the U.S., more than half from outside Europe; 60% of these visits arrive through PubMed/Medline, and finish with the downloading of an article, testifying to reader interest in our material.

And now let's look at the future.

We expect that our paper flow, already as high as 20 papers per month,<sup>4</sup> will rapidly increase. This means that the rejection rate (today between 50%

and 60%) will increase as well. Hopefully, we will also be able to increase the printed issues.

We aim at improving the review process as much as possible: timing is already quite good, mainly when compared to other journals, with a median time for the first answer to authors of less than 2 months, and a printing time of 6.5 months for accepted papers.<sup>4</sup> What we want to improve is the scientific quality of the review process, with increased use of current internationally recognized standards for reviews.

We want to maintain our clinical orientation, since we believe that a scientific journal must be useful, most of all. Even if not ignoring the importance of the bibliometric indices (which are in any case restricted to the scientific world), we will not fight to increase them even more: what we want is to offer our readership new clinical insights, new interesting perspectives, and some sound clinical science. Consequently, the Cochrane Corner will remain, as well as the Special Sections and Case Reports, and we are thinking of a Methodological Rehabilitation Research series, to help our readers to better understand what the PRM journals (EJPRM included) publish.

Let's continue on this incredible adventure that made the EJPRM a robust reality that gives visibility to the strength of the European, Mediterranean, and Italian physical and rehabilitation medicine world, while empowering it even more.

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