

***Biochemia Medica* celebrates its first impact factor**

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Key words: impact factor; journal; publication; editorial board

On behalf of the Editorial Board we proudly announce that *Biochemia Medica* has received its first Impact Factor. According to the recently released Thomson ISI Impact Factor list (1), the 2009 impact factor for *Biochemia Medica* is 0.660. This impact factor comes as the great award for continuous efforts of the journal Editorial Board in the year when we celebrate the 5th anniversary of the life of the Journal in the new guise, after the major change of the journal content and design as well as the shift in editorial policy (2).

As nicely reviewed by prof. Ana Marusic, co-Editor-in-chief of the Croatian Medical Journal, the development of the scientific journals in small scientific communities like Croatia, is hampered by a numerous factors, like financial resources, language barrier, the lack of high quality manuscripts and good reviewers and some other as well (3). Our editorial team has been doing a great job during the past several years and we take this opportunity to thank to all who contributed to this success. During these last five years, *Biochemia Medica* has been accepted for indexing in some major biomedical bibliographic databases (4,5) and has been constantly improving the quality of the editorial work (6). *Biochemia Medica* has long recognized the importance of the statistical peer-review process (7,8). We have therefore implemented a stati-

tical review for all submitted manuscripts and are continuously publishing educational articles under the section *Lessons in biostatistics*, which has so far covered various topics like statistical hypothesis testing (9), meta-analyses (10), proper choice of the statistical test (11), etc. To find our own niche in this highly competitive and challenging international environment, besides covering all common relevant topics in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, we also cover issues like education (12), scientific publication in biomedicine (13-16), evidence-based research methodology (17-18), accreditation and quality (19-21) and many others.

Editorial work is voluntary, highly responsible and time-consuming. The only award for this highly demanding work is the quality of the journal, rating it receives from indexing databases and other indicators like citations, web page visits and number of article downloads. These figures are in continuous increase, indicating that it is worth the effort. Thank you!

We invite you all to continue assisting in this responsible job, by participating in the peer-review process, promoting the journal among your international colleagues, encouraging authors to submit their work to *Biochemia Medica* and sharing with us all your valuable comments and suggestions.

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