Editor's corner

G. Campanelli¹

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Dear Hernia Friends, Dear Hernia Readers

2020 will go down in history and in the history of science as a dark period that saw the whole world overwhelmed by fear and bewilderment following the outbreak and spread of a deadly global pandemic, and by a flood of information that was not (indeed, is not) always scientifically correct and validated by scientific methodology.

Despite all this turmoil, uncertainty, struggle and weariness, scientific research has not stopped; on the contrary, more and more research has been produced, and the field has come to be seen as a solid beacon of hope in the darkness.

In our particular field of abdominal hernia surgery, our prestigious journal has done remarkably well. This year, we have received over 700 articles (up from 568 in 2019), including over 400 original articles, and recorded an overall rejection rate of around 70% (Table 1).

The submissions came from 63 countries worldwide (Table 2, Fig. 1), and the time from submission to first decision averaged 22.1 days. A total of 2202 reviewers were invited to assess papers.

I think we are entitled to feel hugely proud of these results, achieved in spite of these difficult times.

The world of science and research is characterized by its independence and by the complete objectivity of scientific data, which are not conditioned by economic or political interests, or by any form of expediency.

Whatever their geographical and socio-economic background and available technological resources, all the authors whose work has been published in HERNIA this year have been careful to respect the quality criteria and level of precision and attention to detail demanded by our journal, whose quality is further borne out by the fact that nearly all the

articles we published were put through more than two peer-review rounds before being accepted.

In this regard, we must highlight the fantastic work done by the hundreds of reviewers who, undeterred by the difficulties faced this year, especially by the medical profession, have spent hours of their valuable time reviewing, criticizing and ultimately improving the quality of the articles received and published. A list of their names is reported at the end of this issue.

Last but not least, we cannot thank enough HERNIA's Section Editors and International Advisory Board members who promptly handled manuscripts and gave their expert advice whenever requested.

Another important development this year has been the huge quantity of Letters to the Editor and Comments that we have received and published: they are a sign that authors are keen to share developments and exchange views and opinions directly, and they reflect the vitality of our journal.

Equally important and pleasing has been the growing number of Topical Collections, arising from the Forums set up to deal with specific aspects of hernia surgery. The present issue contains our most recent Forum, which provides fascinating and authoritative insight into experimental surgery and tissue engineering, and sees the participation of eminent surgeons and researchers from all over the world. From the first issues of 2021, we will be launching our usual calls for contributions to new Forums on rectus diastasis, chronic pain and component separation, to name just a few.

Clearly, next year will not be without its problems, but we will continue to encourage constant, valuable and profitable research and scientific work in the field of hernia surgery, conducted, as always, in pursuit of the very best treatments for our patients.

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Table 1 Submissions by article type and outcome

Rejection rate %	Types of articles	Submitted	Accepted	Rejected	In process	Withdrawn
70	Original article	435	109	258	58	3
64	Review	62	20	35	7	0
99	Case report	117	1	109	4	1
17	Letter to the editor	50	38	8	3	0
75	How-i-do-it	32	7	21	4	0
15	Comment	13	11	2	0	0
0	Editorial	1	1	0	0	0
		710	187	433	76	4

Source: Editorial manager 26 October 2019–26 October 2020

Table 2 Geographical distribution

	Country	Submitted	Accepted
1	CHINA	98	11
2	UNITED STATES	98	35
3	ITALY	54	17
4	TURKEY	48	6
5	INDIA	41	7
6	UNITED KINGDOM	37	19
7	NETHERLANDS	36	10
8	GERMANY	28	15
9	SPAIN	28	8
10	BRAZIL	25	9
11	JAPAN	22	5
12	DENMARK	14	8
13	GREECE	13	4
14	FRANCE	10	2
15	ARGENTINA	9	0
16	AUSTRALIA	9	0
17	KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	9	1
18	EGYPT	8	0
19	MEXICO	7	1
20	SINGAPORE	7	4
21	TAIWAN	7	1
22	IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF	6	0
23	BELGIUM	5	3
24	CANADA	5	2
25	IRELAND	5	0
26	ISRAEL	5	1
27	SAUDI ARABIA	5	0
28	SWEDEN	5	1
29	COLOMBIA	4	1
30	FINLAND	4	0
31	HONG KONG	4	2
32	NIGERIA	4	1
33	POLAND	4	1
34	CROATIA	3	1
35	CZECH REPUBLIC	3	3
36	PHILIPPINES	3	1

Table 2 (continued)

	Country	Submitted	Accepted
37	PORTUGAL	3	0
38	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	3	1
39	CHILE	2	0
40	COSTA RICA	2	1
41	PAKISTAN	2	0
42	ROMANIA	2	0
43	SWITZERLAND	2	0
44	THAILAND	2	1
45	ALGERIA	1	0
46	AUSTRIA	1	0
47	HUNGARY	1	0
48	INDONESIA	1	0
49	KAZAKHSTAN	1	0
50	LITHUANIA	1	1
51	MACEDONIA	1	0
52	MARTINIQUE	1	0
53	MOROCCO	1	0
54	NEPAL	1	0
55	NORWAY	1	1
56	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1	0
57	QATAR	1	0
58	SLOVENIA	1	0
59	SOUTH AFRICA	1	1
60	SUDAN	1	0
61	UKRAINE	1	0
62	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1	1
63	URUGUAY	1	0

Source: Editorial manager 26 October 2019–26 October 2020

Fig. 1 Top 15 submitters. Source: Editorial manager 26 October 2019–26 October 2020

G. Campanelli (Editor-in-Chief)
 Jie Chen (Associate Editor)
 Diego Cuccurullo (Associate Editor)
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