Sixteen years with *Internal and Emergency Medicine*: farewell of the Editor-in-Chief

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Dear Colleagues,

I write my last Editor's Page as my appointment as Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of *Internal and Emergency Medicine* is about to end.

I have to say that this has been one of the most satisfying experience in my professional life, and I am thinking about the long journey taken with the Journal over these past 12 years as EIC (over 16 years if we consider that I have been involved with the Journal since 2006, when it was founded by two “giants”, Gian Franco Gensini and Peter Rosen).

Thinking back to the first days in 2009 when I was appointed by professor Giuseppe Licata, President of the Italian Society of Internal Medicine (SIMI), now I know that nothing can fully prepare you to the complexity of this role.

I started in 2006 by cooperating with the EIC, Prof. Gensini, as Chairman of the Operating Group; then, I embarked on my EIC's activity entering a new, interesting and challenging world. Interactions with authors, board members, reviewers, open discussions with SIMI and its Presidents have filled many hours of my weeks.

I am grateful to the efforts of all who have contributed to the Journal over these times. My work as EIC has been the main focus of my academic life in the past years. Although the Journal has exacted many working hours, it has also brought me many glows of satisfaction. My early days as EIC required a very steep learning curve to adjust to the different, and very much increased, workload. Since its inception in 2006, the Journal has evolved into a dynamic international forum for disseminating science and education related to Internal Medicine; beyond any doubt, it will continue its mission in the future, with the new EIC Piero Portincasa and Deputy Editors Cecilia Becattini, Leon

Sanchez, Giorgio Costantino and Chiara Cogliati. The Journal has considerably grown over the last few years, by doubling the number of submissions, and it is now worldwide read, also thanks to the enhanced visibility through social media. Similarly, usage has recorded a steep increase and we expect to reach almost 650,000 articles downloads at the end of 2021; an almost three-fold increase from 2018 and a two-fold increase from 2020. The Journal has also shown a significant improvement in other metrics. Although the Impact Factor (IF) relevance in academic literature is still debated, due to the exceeding importance that has been attributed to it by authors and Chair's departments, we have nevertheless witnessed a substantial growth of this Journal metric, from 2371 (IF 2008) to 3397 (IF 2020). By agreeing that the IF is a partial reflection of the overall quality of individual articles, researchers, and even whole journals, we can't ignore its prestige in publishing. The article selection for publication in academic Journals is always driven by the complex balance between what helps science advancement, and what readers find interesting and useful.

Now it is time to leave although I will be glad to support the new EIC during the first months of his activity.

I would have to thank a lot of people for their support over this long journey and I cannot be exhaustive. Please excuse me if I should miss anyone in this farewell. In addition to all the Editorial board members, reviewers and authors, a special thank is for Matt Lyon, very active editor of the Emergency Medicine section; Giorgio Costantino, Giovanni Casazza and Nicola Montano for their precious work for the Clinical Evidence section; Riccardo Polosa and Michele Spinicci, Guest Editors of the Topical Collection on COVID-19 including more than 200 articles that generated over 350,000 downloads, the President of SIMI, Antonello Pietrangelo (2019–2021), who gave me a special support, and finally the precious Federica Polverosi and Carlotta d'Imporzano from Springer who made me easier a very difficult work.

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My last thanks are for you, Readers of the Journal, for your continuous support. Hope you will continue to support the Journal in the future and I wish you a wonderful 2022.

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