Clinical and translational imaging 2020: update on progresses thanks to readers and editors

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With this issue, clinical and translational imaging (CATI) begins its eighth year of life. The editorial strategies have been so far successful as the Journal maintains a regular flow of publications after becoming more selective.

In this annual editorial, I would like to thank all those authors who have contributed to improving the quality and visibility of the Journal by publishing their papers in it, resulting in an increased number of citations and full-text downloads.

This is also the result of the dedication of our outstanding Editorial Board, composed of colleagues with renown reputation, of the timely contribution of hundreds of colleagues involved in the peer-review process, as well as of the skillful assistance of the Springer team. For these results I want to warmly thank all our colleagues that have supported the Journal with continuity, in particular reviewers and readers who deserve a special thank for believing in the role of CATI in the scientific and clinical publishing arena.

Furthermore, as CATI is the official Journal of the Italian Association of Nuclear Medicine (AIMN), I would like to thank all the AIMN members, president and leadership, who believe in this Journal and actively contribute to CATI's life by downloading and citing its articles, as well as by publishing their papers in it with increasing enthusiasm, and last but not least by devolving part of their membership fee for the Journal support. By doing so the AIMN members have shown that they perceive CATI as “their” Journal, considering it an important instrument to improve their knowledge and obtain continuing medical education (CME) credits, as well as a flag for the visibility of the Association worldwide.

During the meeting of our Editorial Board at the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM'19) congress in Barcelona, the numerous participants had an active

discussion, in particular thanks to the presence of new board members. This editorial summarizes the information provided on the Journal's standing in the panorama of imaging journals, and the discussion that took place on the state and perspectives of the Journal.

In 2019, forty-two papers were published in CATI, including meta-analyses, systematic reviews, expert reviews and mini reviews, as well as editorials, spotlight articles and pictorial essays, consistently with the goals that were set in the previous years. The heterogeneous yet steady flow of articles of various types allows providing the readership with bi-monthly issues including a combination of editorials, review papers, pictorial essays, and spotlight articles.

In the last couple of years, contributions have been received from authors belonging to many prestigious institutions, from twenty-one countries worldwide, mostly in North America and Europe and, to a lesser extent, also from Asia, Africa, and South America. Moreover, in 2019, new members including colleagues from different countries have joined the board, further increasing the international competences and geographic areas covered by the Journal.

The number of downloads is steadily increasing, it was slightly above sixty thousand in 2018 and almost ninety thousand in 2019, with an increase of thirty percent. These achievements demonstrate the progressive popularity of the journal among basic scientists and clinicians as well. It is worth noting that the accesses to the journal are coming mostly from searches in Google and to a lesser extent from other big and renown databases. Visibility in Google and searches through the internet has increased the number of citations and downloads, while, at the same time, authors have become aware that a substantial part of the literature of interest is available through the Web, and that such availability increases the journal and authors visibility as well.

Although the Journal has achieved the goal of progressive growth, the competition with other scientific journal requires commitment to continue such progression by publishing good and relevant papers, by recruiting authors, and

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by improving the circulation of the papers published in our journal among new readers who will improve the number of citations. In fact, an increase in the number of citations is key for succeeding in the goal of being included in the list of Journals with an official Impact Factor (IF). The further growth of citation records allows us to hope that within a couple of years CATI could be officially included in the Journal of Citation Report with its official IF. However, in the meantime, since CATI is indexed in Scopus, it must be remarked that papers and citations in Scopus are valued in many countries worldwide for the assessment of academic achievements and grant applications.

An appealing aspect of CATI, that Authors should be aware of, is the fact that we have a very fast revision and publication process, based on the very short time from submission to online publication with a reduction of the time needed from the submission to the online publication, from four months in 2016 and 2017, to three months in 2018.

This result has been made possible by the publication of the submitted papers under topical collections rather than in monothematic issues. This strategy has already been successful because it allows continuous updates on all scientific and clinical areas, flexibility of issue content, besides the timely publication of submitted papers.

It is worth remarking that Springer allows authors to share their published article by means of the Springer Nature SharedIt link. To assist authors in disseminating their research to the broader community, Springer provides a free read-only version of the full-published article via a unique SharedIt link that can be generated by entering the DOI of the article. Moreover, by following our Facebook page it is possible to obtain the sharable link for each paper as soon as it is published. News about the journal activity posted in various Facebook groups aimed at scientists and clinicians involved in nuclear medicine and molecular imaging reach regularly an international readership. I would like to renew the invitation to share with colleagues the Facebook posts.

Not only the papers published in CATI from 2016 onward can be retrieved in searches carried out in the Web of Science/Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) database, but CATI is also listed in other databases including SCOPUS, EMBASE, Google Scholar, ProQuest, Academic Search, ChemWeb, EBSCO Discovery Service, INIS Atomindex, OCLC, SCImago, Summon by ProQuest.

New efforts are necessary for improving the diffusion of CATI contributions in 2020.

The inclusion in further prestigious data bases (in particular PubMed and Journal of Citation Report) requires a continuous flow of submissions from a broad international community of authors achievable by inviting manuscripts from prominent basic scientists and clinicians, by ensuring timely publication and by gaining citations to allow the inclusion of the journal in major databases.

We aim at introducing more review articles and other type of papers, including commentaries and letters on topics that are at the core of the journal. The journal will include papers on the traditional topics of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging, but also papers related to the fields of systems biomedicine and radiomics, also in relation to other “omics”. To this end I would like to ask the readership of the Journal and the members of the Editorial Board for a continuing support in identifying topics and submitting papers, also by actively pursuing focused literature searches, by paying attention to the expectations of our peers to update their knowledge on topics that are evolving and either controversial or of broad interest. These efforts should be aimed at identifying emerging areas in the field of molecular imaging and topics that are the object of debate, as well as at increasing the Journal strength and at allowing our authors to enjoy the privilege of increasingly higher visibility for their work.

The commitment of the Editorial Board, Reviewers and Authors, is key for increasing the impact of CATI in the molecular imaging community. As Editor-in-Chief of CATI it is my duty to invite our Editorial Board members to contribute to further improve the Journal content and circulation in the scientific and clinical community, with their contributions and suggestions.

I would like to conclude this Editorial with my best wishes for a successful and happy 2020.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest Giovanni Lucignani declares he has no conflict of interest.

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