

*Editorial Comments***BANTAO Journal: A Story of Ten Years**

Nada Dimkovic¹, Mustafa Arici², Dimitrios Goumenos³, Nikolina Basic-Jukic⁴ and Goce Spasovski⁵

¹Clinical Department for Renal Diseases, Zvezdara University Medical Center, Belgrade, Serbia, ²Unit of Nephrology, Department of Internal Medicine, Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey, ³Department of Nephrology and Renal Transplantation, University Hospital of Patras, Greece, ⁴School of Medicine University of Zagreb, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia, ⁵University Department of Nephrology, University of Skopje, Skopje, Macedonia

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the BANTAO Journal, the Editorial team is presenting a brief report on the current status and achievements trying to get an answer whether it has met the expectations since its establishment. The first issue was published in September 2003 by Kidney Foundation of Bulgaria, ten years after BANTAO was born in Ohrid on October 9, 1993. In fact, the first issue was an abstract book composed of the selected 330 submitted abstracts from the 6th BANTAO Congress held in Varna from 6-9 October. The Editor was Veselin Nenov and Editorial board members were: Ljubica Djukanovic, Dimitar Nenov, Momir Polenakovic, and Charalambos Stathakis, all founders of the BANTAO Association. We decided to nourish the practice of publishing additional supplement from the Congress abstracts. At the same time, the authors with presentations at the BANTAO Congress were invited to submit their valuable papers to be published into the Journal. Over time, there were editorial changes: since 2005 until 2009 the Editor was Ali Basci (Izmir, Turkey) and Deputy Editor Goce Spasovski (Skopje, Macedonia). Since 2009 G. Spasovski has held the Editor-in-Chief Office. Over the last couple of years, as a result of the great effort and engagement the Journal has been included into the EBSCO, DOAJ and SCOPUS/SCIMAGO database. It is a great progress and we are grateful to all of the con-

tributors to the Journal, and especially to Veselin Nenov who was very devoted to the work in the Journal, applying for its inclusion in various databases and maintaining the Journal official web page for many years. In addition, we appreciate the highly scientific contribution of the world-recognized experts in the field of nephrology. However, we are pleased that there is a growing number of original papers from Balkan authors reflecting the high quality research and scientific potential from the Balkan nephrologists. Reasonably, along with the imposed higher standards for publication, the number of papers decreased over time. Table 1 shows the number of papers published in two periods: 2003-2007 and 2008-2013. Herewith, we could observe an increasing number of papers from Croatia, related maybe to the acquisition and effort of their associate editor. We would like very much to see such an increased enthusiasm from the other countries in the future. Apart from the originality of our authors, we tried to put some challenges asking for their comments on topics we found important for our region such as: improving transplant program, vascular access in developing countries, peritoneal dialysis in AKI, dilemmas about RRT selection, vascular calcifications, Balkan endemic nephropathy, guideline controversies, novel therapy of primary and secondary glomerular diseases, etc.

Table 1. Number of papers published in the BANTAO Journal and the country of origin

	MKD	SRB	GR	TR	BG	AL	RO	BiH	CRO	SLO	Others	Overall
Papers 2003-2007	52	50	46	35	21	12	9	7			35	267
Papers 2008-2014	27	13	18	29	9	10	2	5	16	6	12	147

In addition, in our publications we also tried to shed some more light on the nephrology and nephrologists from the Balkan region. Although working in difficult condi-

tions, they keep pace with the nephrologists from developed countries, and their effort is really worth mentioning. This is even more important, having in mind

that the number of their papers in journals with a high impact factor is increasing. Of note, the contribution of nephrologists from the region in the field of clinical trials has also increased recognizing our hard work and enthusiasm when selecting the sites for clinical trials and more and more sites from the region are involved in the last couple of years.

Let's remember the goals proposed when BANTAO Association was established: *"The main goal of BANTAO is to promote scientific and technical cooperation in the field of renal diseases and artificial organs between the Balkan cities. This goal will be achieved not only through a periodical congress, but also through lecturers fellowship and scientific research methods exchange, joint meetings and courses, publications and coopera-*

tion in the field of renal transplant".

This Journal, for sure, has contributed to these goals and we want to express our gratitude to all who incorporated their spirit for the benefit of our association.

Still, there is a lot to be done in the forthcoming period: to increase the submission rate and quality of papers and to think about paper citations from the journal since we have obtained Scientific Impact factor. Finally, our aim in the near future is to include BANTAO Journal in the Medline database which is the way to increase Journal Impact Factor (Thomson Reuters) once it's Medline cited.

*On behalf of the Editorial Board of
BANTAO Journal*