The Newborn Research & Reviews

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The Newborn is a most appropriate name for the birth of a new journal. A new birth is nearly always reason for celebration because of the potential it represents for great things in the future. So it is with this new journal, The Newborn Research & Reviews – the official journal of the Romanian Association of Neonatology. I have taken great pleasure and pride in seeing the tremendous advances in newborn care that have occurred in Romania in the past quarter-century since I first attended the Annual Conference of the Romanian Association of Neonatology in 1999. I have attended most of the annual conferences since then and have come to know many of Romania’s neonatologists, including the journal’s Editor-in-Chief, Manuela Cucerea, and the Deputy Editors-in-Chief, Maria Livia Ognean and Adrian Ioan Toma. I have known the three editors for 25 years and have high confidence that they will bring the energy and dedication necessary to assure the journal’s success.

Until recent years, the emphasis for Romanian neonatologists was appropriately concentrated on improving the clinical care they provided and the resulting patient outcomes. In the 1990s and early 2000s, steady progress was achieved in these areas despite shortages of physicians, nurses, and the best modern equipment. These challenges, while not completely overcome, have subsided, and the level of clinical care provided in the best neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) in Romania now approaches that available in western European countries. While patient-care challenges remain, now it is possible for Romanian neonatologists, obstetricians, and pediatric and surgical specialists in the larger hospitals to pursue clinical research projects and to publish their results in scientific journals. It is appropriate for Romania now to have its own journal devoted to the care and outcomes of newborn infants.

The field of neonatology (care of the newborn infant) is an exciting and relatively young branch of medicine. The first certification of neonatologists in the U.S. occurred in 1975. In the large general hospital where I work, patients in the NICU account for more than 10% of the hospital census on any given day and a corresponding proportion of the hospital’s patient-based revenue. Notably, patients in the NICU have, by far, the highest survival rate (>95%) of any ICU in the hospital.

There are relatively few medical journals devoted to the newborn around the world and none with a 2022 impact factor higher than 4.4. There is clearly room for another journal focused on the newborn. The Newborn – Research & Reviews will accept for review original research articles, review articles, case reports and case series, commentaries, and letters to the editor. All submissions should be in English and according to the journal’s Guidelines for Authors. I hope the journal will attract submissions by authors from Eastern Europe but also from around the world. The problems encountered by newborn infants are not unique to one country or region.

The Newborn Research & Reviews had an older sibling. The journal Neonatologia was published from 1996 through 2012 as the first journal of the Romanian Association of Neonatology. I was honored to serve on the editorial board of Neonatologia, and I am honored to serve again on the editorial board of The Newborn Research & Reviews.