



Polish Cardiac Society
Portuguese Society of Cardiology
Romanian Society of Cardiology
Russia Fed Society of Cardiology

Slovak Society of Cardiology
Spanish Society of Cardiology
Swiss Society of Cardiology

Tunisian Society of Cardiology
Turkish Society of Cardiology
Ukrainian Association of Cardiology
British Cardiovascular Society

Kardiologia Polska - Polish Heart Journal
Revista Portuguesa de Cardiologia
Revista Româna de Cardiologie
Cardiovascular Therapy and Prevention
Rational Pharmacotherapy in Cardiology
Kardiológia
Revista Española de Cardiología
Kardiovaskuläre Medizin
Médecine Cardiovasculaire
Cardiologie Tunisienne
Archives of the Turkish Society of Cardiology
Ukrainian Journal of Cardiology
Heart

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Affiliated Society Name

Argentine Society of Cardiology
Hong Kong College of Cardiology
Mexican Society of Cardiology
Heart Association of Thailand
Venezuelan Society of Cardiology

Affiliated Society Journal

Revista Argentina de Cardiología
Journal of the Hong Kong College of Cardiology
Archivos de Cardiología de México
Thai Heart Journal
Avances Cardiológicos

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* Not official National Society journal, but major cardiology journal in Austria

** Common journal for the Baltic countries

Uvodnik

Editorial

Uloga urednika časopisa kao edukatora stručnih i istraživačkih zajednica

The role of journal editors as educators in professional and research communities

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Past President, World Association of Medical Editors*

Klub urednika Europskog udruženja nacionalnih kardiovaskularnih časopisa (ENSCJ), koji okuplja više od 40 urednika i njihove časopise, predstavlja najbolji primjer kako urednici, ako udruže snage, mogu utjecati na područje istraživanja¹. Naročito važna je njihova edukativna uloga, što je naglašeno u novom priopćenju o inicijativi razvoja sustava ocjenjivanja kontinuirane medicinske edukacije (CME) za pojedine članke u časopisima ENSCJ².

U edukacijskoj ulozi u vlastitim znanstvenim zajednicama, urednici časopisa imaju dva strateška alata: urednički integritet i politiku uslužnosti autorima³. Kako bi razvili sustav dodjeljivanja CME bodova člancima u svojim časopisima ENSCJ urednici se moraju pobrinuti da su ti članci dobro napisani te da su studije ili problemi dobro predstavljeni, a također moraju imati pouzdanja u pravovaljanost predstavljenog istraživanja.

Poboljšanje kvalitete objavljenih članaka te time i učinkovitosti prijenosa podataka o istraživanjima može se postići isključivo aktivnom suradnjom urednika s autorima članaka. Umjesto da se žale kako su dobili loše napisane tekstove, urednici bi se trebali aktivno uključiti u politiku uslužnosti autorima³. Bez obzira na važnost i utjecaj časopisa

The Editors' Club of the European National Society Cardiovascular Journals (ENSCJ), gathering more than 40 editors and their journals, is the best example how editors can make an impact on the research field if they join their efforts¹. Particularly important is their educational role, as emphasized in their most recent communication about the initiative to develop continuing medical education (CME) credit systems for their journals for particular articles².

In their role of educators in their own scientific communities, journal editors have two strategic tools: their editorial integrity and author-helpful policy³. To develop a system of awarding CME credits to the articles in their journals, ENSCJ editors have to ensure that these articles are well written and the research or problem well presented, as well as to be confident in the validity of the research presented.

The increase in the quality of the published articles and thus an effective transfer of research information can be achieved only by active work of editors with the journal authors. Instead of complaining that they get poorly written manuscripts, editors should get engaged in a proactive, author-helpful policy³. Regardless of the journal's impor-



pisa, urednici svoje autore mogu educirati o različitim aspektima prijenosa informacija o istraživanjima stručnoj zajednici, naročito kad se radi o prezentaciji podataka, ustroju studija i statističkoj analizi³.

Prvi korak u obuci autora o predstavljanju podataka je korištenje sveobuhvatnih smjernica za autore. Smjernice za autore nisu važne samo za osiguravanje stilskog standarda časopisa, već također podučavaju autore o veoma važnim problemima prijenosa znanja iz znanstvenih istraživanja: format znanstvenog članka, cjelovitost prezentiranih podataka, točno citiranje literaturnih navoda, organizacija tablica, izgledu slika te ostali detalji koji podržavaju znanstvenu valjanost izvješća.

Vežano uz ustroj studije, urednici su svjesni činjenice da je to određeno mnogo prije no što konačni rezultati dođu do urednika, pa se stoga malo može učiniti kako bi se promijenio ovaj aspekt istraživanja. Međutim, čak i u ovom stupnju urednik autoru može pružiti edukacijsku pomoć tražeći otvorenu i detaljnu raspravu o slabostima studije u članku. Prikładne upute recenzentima mogu rezultirati jasnijim komentarima autoru kako da to učini. Iako to može oduzeti dosta vremena, to je mnogo bolje nego jednostavno odbaciti tekst — to je obeshrabrujuće i od toga nema nikakve edukativne koristi. Urednici časopisa, u svojem položaju stručnjaka u akademskoj zajednici, mogu također pružiti inicijative za uvođenje više sustavne edukacije u metodologiju istraživanja u svojim edukativnim ili istraživačkim institucijama, kao i stručnim udruženjima.

Naposljetku, obučavanje autora u pravilnoj primjeni analize podataka (statistiki) može se postići preko uredničke politike pomoći autorima. Časopisi koji objavljuju originalna kvantitativna istraživanja bi mogli slijediti najbolje prakse visoko-utjecajnih kliničkih časopisa te uvesti obvezatnu statističku recenziju svih rukopisa koji uključuju brojčane podatke.

Kako bi osigurali valjanost i cjelovitost objavljenih članaka, urednici časopisa bi trebali biti svjesni snage svojeg utjecaja te usmjeriti razvoj istraživanja u svojim lokalnim zajednicama⁵. Oni imaju snagu koju ima daje njihova profesionalna i istraživačka stručnost, kao i mogućnosti stvaranja otvorene i pravedne uredničke i izdavačke politike. Također imaju prilike koje im pružaju veće međunarodne organizacije urednika, kao što su *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)*, *World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)*, *Council of Science Editors (CSE)*, kao i *European Association of Science Editors (EASE)*. Pored snage i mogućnosti njihovog posla, urednici časopisa bi također trebali biti svjesni svojih vlastitih slabosti pri svladavanju izazova vezanih uz cjelovitost njihovih časopisa, kao i mogućih vanjskih prijetnji njihovom radu⁵. Tome se najbolje može suprotstaviti poznavanjem načina na koji se postupa s etičkim problemima koji se pojavljuju u njihovom radu. Naročito je koristan Etički postupnik od Udruge za izdavačku etiku (*Committee on Publication Ethics — COPE*), najveće uredničke organizacije koja se bavi stvarnim etičkim problemima urednika časopisa⁶. Etički postupnik je dostupan na mrežnoj stranici COPE (<http://publicationethics.org/flowcharts>). Također je preveden na različite jezike, uključujući hrvatski; hrvatski prijevod je dostupan na mrežnoj stranici *Ministarstva znanosti, obrazovanja i športa Republike Hrvatske* (<http://public.mzos.hr/Default.aspx?art=7966>).

tance and influence, the editors can educate their authors in different aspects of communicating research to the scientific community, particularly in regard to the presentation of data, study design, and statistical analysis³.

The first step in training authors in data presentation is to have comprehensive guidelines for authors. Author guidelines are not important only for ensuring the standard of the journal's style, but they also teach the authors very important issues of communicating scientific research: format of the scientific article, completeness of data presentation, correct citation of the literature, organization of tables, design of figures, and other details that support the scientific validity of the report.

With regard to the study design, editors are aware of the fact that this has been set long before the final results reach the editor, so little can be done to change this aspect of research. However, even at this stage, the editor can provide educational assistance to the author by asking for an open and detailed discussion of the study weaknesses in the article. Appropriate instructions to the reviewers can result in clear comments to the author how to do this. Although this may be time-consuming, it is much better than just rejecting the manuscript - this is discouraging and educationally useless. Journal editors, in their position as experts in academic community, can also provide incentives for introduction of more systematic education in research methodology at their teaching or research institutions, as well as professional associations.

Finally, training authors in adequate application of data analysis (statistics) may be achieved through author-helpful editorial policy. Journals publishing original quantitative research could follow the best practices of high-impact clinical journals, and introduce mandatory statistical review of all manuscripts with numerical data presentation.

In ensuring the validity and integrity of the published articles, journal editors should be aware of the power they have to influence and direct the development of research in their local communities⁵. They have the strengths provided by their professional and research expertise, as well as the power to formulate transparent and fair editorial and publication policies. They also have the opportunities offered by larger international editorial organizations, such as the *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)*, *World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)*, *Council of Science Editors (CSE)*, as well as *European Association of Science Editors (EASE)*. In addition to the strengths and opportunities for their work, journal editors should also be aware of their own weakness to face challenges to the integrity of their journals, as well as possible outside threats to their work⁵. Those can be best counteracted by knowing how to deal with ethical issues arising in their work. Particularly useful are the ethical guidelines from the *Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)*, the largest editorial organization dealing with actual ethical problems of journal editors⁶. They are available at the COPE web-site (<http://publicationethics.org/flowcharts>). They have also been translated into different languages, including Croatian; the Croatian translation is available at the web-site of the *Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports* (<http://public.mzos.hr/Default.aspx?art=7966>).

An important educational effort of the ENSCJ could also be in educating their authors and other stakeholders in car-



Važno edukativno nastojanje ENSCJ bi također moglo biti u edukaciji njihovih autora i ostalih interesnih grupa u kardiološkim istraživanjima o potrebama potpune otvorenosti kliničkih studija, koje su u središtu kardiovaskularnih istraživanja u svim znanstvenim i geografskim zajednicama. ICMJE zahtjev za registracijom studija⁷ je prihvaćen od strane Svjetske zdravstvene organizacije, koja je razvila poseban web portal za registriranje studija — *International Clinical Trials Registry Platform* (<http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/>). Najnovija revizija Helsinške deklaracije o etičkim principima u medicinskim istraživanjima koja uključuju ljudske subjekte Svjetskog liječničkog udruženja iz 2008. (<http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>), također je uključila i nove zahtjeve za registriranje studija: "Svaka klinička studija mora prije uključena prvih ispitanika biti registrirana u javno dostupnoj bazi podataka." Uz najnovije direktive Europske komisije za otvaranjem EudraCT baze podataka, europski časopisi i njihovi urednici mogu značajno pridonijeti povećanju svijesti svojih čitatelja o potrebi za otvorenosti kliničkih istraživanja u korist javnosti te podučavati svoje čitatelje.

diology research about the need for full transparency of clinical trials, which are at the heart of cardiovascular research in all scientific and geographical communities. The ICMJE requirement for trial registration⁷ has been accepted by the *World Health Organization*, which developed a special portal for trial registries — *International Clinical Trials Registry Platform* (<http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/>). The latest revision of the World Medical Association Helsinki Declaration on Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects from 2008 (<http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>), introduced the new requirement for trial registration: "Every clinical trial must be registered in a publicly accessible database before recruitment of the first subject." With the most recent directives of the European Commission for opening the EudraCT database, European journals and their editors can make a significant contribution to increasing the awareness of their readers about the need for the transparency of clinical research for the benefit of the public, and educating their readers.

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Izvorni znanstveni članak

Original scientific paper

Smrtnost od akutnog infarkta miokarda u Hrvatskoj

Mortality from acute myocardial infarction in Croatia

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SAŽETAK: Akutni infarkt miokarda (AIM), unatoč velikom napretku u dijagnostici, terapiji i prevenciji, ostaje značajan uzrok smrti u suvremenom svijetu. Iako je zadnjih desetak godina došlo do smanjenja stopa smrtnosti u Hrvatskoj, AIM drži je pojedinačni uzrok smrtnosti u muškaraca, a u žena je na četvrtom mjestu. Usporedna analiza dobnog standardiziranih stopa mortaliteta prema županijama ukazuje na znatno više stope smrtnosti u kontinentalnom dijelu u odnosu na priobalni dio Hrvatske. Stoga treba intenzivno raditi na programima promicanja zdravlja i prevencije bolesti uz snažniju suradnju svih razina zdravstvene zaštite, i odgovarajuću zdravstvenu skrb, kako na razini države, tako i na razini županija uzimajući u obzir specifičnosti i potrebe svake županije.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI: akutni infarkt miokarda, dobnog standardizirane stope smrtnosti, županije, Hrvatska.

SUMMARY: Despite a great advancement in diagnostics, therapy and prevention, the acute myocardial infarction (AMI) remains a great cause of mortality in the modern world. Although the mortality rate has been reduced in Croatia during the last ten years, AMI is the second individual cause of mortality in men and it takes the fourth place in women. The comparative analysis of age standardized mortality rates by counties indicates a significantly higher mortality rates in the continental regions compared to the coastal part of Croatia. Therefore, we should strongly work on programs concerning promotion of health and prevention of diseases with a stronger cooperation of all levels of healthcare and adequate healthcare not only at the level of the state, but also at the level of the county thereby taking specific characteristics and requirements of every county into consideration.

KEYWORDS: acute myocardial infarction, age standardized mortality rates, counties, Croatia.