

> doi: 10.3325/cmj.2008.1.105

Ongoing Strong Development of Science and Culture in Croatia Is Impressive

To the Editor: As a member of the Advisory Board of the *Croatian Medical Journal (CMJ)* from the very beginning, who has been witnessing the continuous positive development of the journal as a referee for many submitted papers, I would like to give the following comments on your editorial (1):

1. Please take care that not so many different topics are mixed and discussed under the topic “Kurjak conflict.” It would be better to present them as separate topics.

2. Ownership of the *CMJ*: In fact, the “owners” of *CMJ* are primarily the readers, the authors of articles, and the medical academic community in Europe (and the world), all of them putting their trust in the Editors and the Editorial and Advisory Board. The owners may legally be the Croatian Schools of Medicine, but they are primarily responsible to the spirit of the European medical society. At present I do not see any reason for criticizing the Editors, and if there are complaints, suggestions, or critics, they should be

addressed to the Editorial Board by a letter.

3. Quality of *CMJ*: Scientific journals in all countries and all scientific fields continuously evaluate their “quality.” This is a permanent task and especially in small countries like Croatia. Even in larger and more developed countries, like Germany, journals have problems attracting the best papers for their journals, so any suggestion on continuous improvement is welcome (including those by our colleague Prof. S. Vukičević), and should be discussed in the *CMJ*. There is no doubt that, despite an ongoing internationalisation of science topics and international cooperation (especially with small countries like Croatia), there are certain fields that demand a “regional” journal like the *CMJ*, if it has an international foundation. In my opinion, the Editors have been very successful in improving the level of the journal and giving the journal a characteristic image and good international reputation. My compliments!

4. The Kurjak case. Double publication and other even more unacceptable events are now common in many journals including the most prominent ones. Editors and editorial board are responsible for investigating such events, including publishing retractions and letters/comments of the author and coauthors in question. However, it is not the task of the editor/editorial board to initiate the public discussion or even control the “outcome.” This is the responsibility of other institutions like faculties, scientific societies, sponsors, etc, always ensuring a fair trial.

The ongoing strong development of science and culture in Croatia after the war is so impressive and convincing that the “Kurjak conflict” is just a small curable event.

Hans Joachim Seitz

hjseitz@uke.uni-hamburg.de

University Clinic Hamburg
Eppendorf
Hamburg, Germany

References

- 1 Marusic M, Marusic A. Threats to the integrity of the Croatian Medical Journal. *Croat Med J.* 2007;48:779-85. [Medline:18074411](https://doi.org/10.3325/cmj.2007.48.779)