



Scripta Medica, Volume 51, 2020: a Short Overview

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Abstract

This editorial presents the analysis of volumes 50 (2019) and 51 (2020) of *Scripta Medica*. Original articles made 53 % of 80 articles published in these two volumes. Article rejection rate was 38 %. Mean duration of period until reaching the first decision on an article was 20 days, while mean time until reaching the final decision was 31 days. Mean time needed for accepting the revised manuscript was 3 days, reflecting a significant decrease from 5 days in 2019 to 2 days in 2020. Mean time needed for reaching a decision to reject an article was 7 days. Coverage of the journal included both basic and clinical research and a considerable space was devoted to articles on COVID-19. Further efforts will be made in order to reach a more international recognition of the journal.

Key words: *Scripta Medica*; Biomedical journal; Editorial process; Research articles.

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On 6 August 2018 a new Editorial Office and Editorial and Advisory Boards of the scientific biomedical journal *Scripta Medica* were formed.¹ Since 2019, the journal started to appear quarterly (in March, June, September and December). During these two years, a new layout of the journal was introduced and *Scripta Medica* gained the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) coverage. End of this tumultuous year is a good

Table 1: Structure of volumes 50 (2019) and 51 (2020) of *Scripta Medica*

Type of article	2019		2020		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Editorial	4	12.5	4	8.33	8	10.00
Letters to the Editor	0	0.00	1	2.08	1	1.25
Original	15	46.88	27	56.25	42	52.50
Review	1	3.13	3	6.25	4	5.00
Current topic	2	6.25	2	4.17	4	5.00
Special	2	6.25	1	2.08	3	3.75
History of medicine	1	3.13	3	6.25	4	5.00
Professional	2	6.25	2	4.17	4	5.00
Case report	5	15.63	4	8.33	9	11.25
Obituary	0	0.00	1	2.08	1	1.25
Total	32	100.00	48	100.00	80	100.00

occasion to look back at the accomplishments of *Scripta Medica*, in order to ascertain its strong points but also the areas where some improvement would be necessary.

Volume 51 (2020) contained 48 articles, 50 % more than the volume 50 (Table 1).

It can be noticed that this increase was accompanied by the increase in percentage of original articles and the decrease in the percentage of case reports.

A total of 140 manuscripts was received during the last two years and their status is given in Table 2.

The rejection rate was 35 % in 2019 and it was increased to 41 % in 2020, resulting in the overall rejection rate of 38 %.

Efficacy of critical phases of processing of the received manuscripts is presented in Table 3. For those manuscripts that were eventually

Table 2: Status of manuscripts, Scripta Medica

Decision status	2019		2020		Total	
	Number	% of decided	Number	% of decided	Number	% of decided
Received	53		87		140	
Decided	49	100.00	85	100.00	134	100.00
Rejected	17	34.69	34	40.00	51	38.06
Accepted	32	65.31	51	60.00	83	61.94
a) in current year	30	61.22	48	56.47	78	58.21
b) not in current year	2	4.08	3	3.53	5	3.73
Pending review	4		6		6	

Table 3: Duration of decision-making process, Scripta Medica

Editorial milestone	2019		2020		Total	
	Mean ± SD	Range	Mean ± SD	Range	Mean ± SD	Range
First decision (days)	16.73 ± 13.42	1- 58	21.75 ± 35.62	1-211	19.73 ± 28.34	1-211
Accepted (days)	31.00 ± 23.69	2-126	26.98 ± 39.13	1-214	30.76 ± 38.87	1-216
Revision-acceptation (days)	5.39 ± 4.88	1- 18	1.60 ± 1.38	1- 9	3.11 ± 3.72	1- 18
Rejection (days)	5.50 ± 8.03	1- 20	5.59 ± 8.27	1- 31	6.87 ± 11.55	1- 61

accepted, mean time period until the first editorial decision was made was 20 days, while the mean final acceptance time was 31 days. This relatively long time was a consequence of the lengthy reviewing process. It can be seen that the mean acceptance time after receiving peer-reviews was only 3 days, reflecting a sharp decrease from 5 days in 2019 to only 2 in 2020, while mean time for reaching a decision to reject the submission was 7 days.

Regarding the content of the volume 51, an effort was made to present results of both basic and clinical research. At the same time, a considerable space was dedicated to the coverage of COVID-19 pandemic.²⁻¹⁰ It is an intention of the Editorial Board to continue to diversify the content of *Scripta Medica* and improve the editorial process in order to make it more attractive for international audience.

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Conflict of interest

None.

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