

## An Important Step on the Road to a High-Impact Journal

### Yüksek Etkili Bir Dergiye Giden Yolda Önemli Bir Adım Daha

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The recent development of the Duzce Medical Journal, an important step on the road to a high-impact journal, led me to share this news with our readers. This is the first issue of the 26<sup>th</sup> volume and this editorial was written to share with our readers that the journal has been accepted for inclusion in the Web of Science Core Collection and to briefly summarize the last 5 years of the journal.

An editorial summarizing the first 20 years of Duzce Medical Journal and mentioning its future goals was published in the first issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> volume. In this editorial, the brief history of the journal was shared and the working plan and future goals of the new editorial board were mentioned. After taking over, the editorial board started making changes by using the submission and manuscript management system and made visual changes such as changing the cover and layout of the articles, as well as important changes such as publishing reviews only by invitation.

In the year 2020, following the publication of this editorial, another dramatic step, changing the publication language of the journal was taken to receive full-texts only in English as of the 22<sup>nd</sup> volume. Since then, the primary publication language of the journal has been English, the title, abstract, and keywords of the articles are published in both English and Turkish, while the main text is published only in English. In addition, the editorial board, which reviewed and rearranged the author guidelines and writing rules, began to take firmer steps towards high-quality scientific publishing by introducing serious regulations and controls in ethical policy and scientific publishing standards.

Another innovation in this period was the publication of special issues in the journal for the first time, apart from regular issues. Duzce Medical Journal, which was not indifferent to the challenges and developments in the field of medicine and health sciences during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic period, followed all the knowledge and developments closely and introduced to its readers two special issues: "Health Care and Health

Management in Pre- and Post-Pandemic Period" in 2020 and "Global Imbalances, Economic and Social Changes, and Health Management in Pre- and Post-Pandemic Period" in 2021. While the first special issue aimed to compile qualified reviews and research articles on medicine and other related areas with an interdisciplinary perspective during and after the COVID-19 pandemic period, the aim of the second special issue was to compile qualified reviews and research articles on global imbalances, economic and social changes, as well as health management and health policy. By 2022, taking into account the increasing number of readers, Duzce Medical Journal, which recognizes its service to science and the scientific community as a debt, has presented a special issue themed "Infertility: Current Concepts" to its readers. The special issue aimed to compile qualified reviews on infertility and related issues, and treatment options in male and female patients with the interdisciplinary perspective of both Urology and Gynecology. Finally, a special issue with the theme of "General Principles and Modeling Techniques in Experimental Animal Studies" has been planned for 2024 in order to emphasize the importance of animal experiments in clinical studies, and the production process of this special issue is in progress.

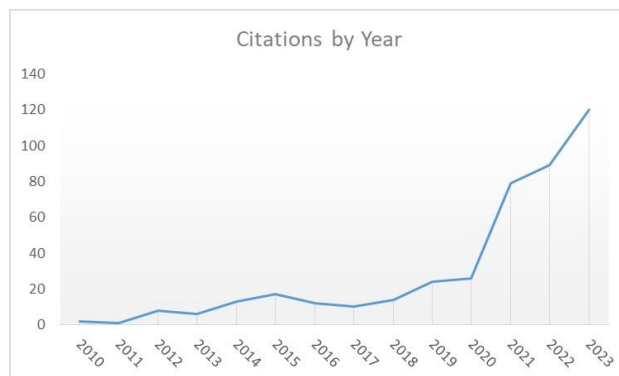
The number of submissions, which increased about threefold compared to previous periods in the remaining eight-month period after the new editorial board took over in 2018, continued to increase in 2019 and reached twice the number submitted in 2018. In 2020, this number of submissions increased 1.4 times compared to 2019 and continued at this level reached in subsequent years. As of the first quarter of 2024, the number of submissions was the same as last year. Among these submissions, as a result of the preliminary evaluation by the editorial board, and subsequent double-blind peer-review processes, the acceptance rates were 56% in 2018, 37% in 2019, and 36% in 2020 and 2021. As of 2022 and 2023, this rate continues to be 38%.

Another effort of the new editorial board with the aim of leading the authors in improving and revising their manuscripts and publication of the highest quality as much as possible, was to publish informative articles in the field of biostatistics to emphasize the importance of biostatistics in medical research starting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of the 23<sup>rd</sup> volume.

Duzce Medical Journal, whose number of international citations has constantly increased as a result of the strict monitoring and hard work of the editorial board along with all the regulations and improvements made in terms of scientific publishing standards, has continuously increased the number of international citations calculated in SCOPUS over the years and reached a total of 123 citations as of 2023 (Figure 1). As a result of the hard work of the editorial board, one of the important goals was achieved and Duzce Medical Journal, which is increasingly recognized internationally, finally received the recognition it deserved at the end of this momentum and was selected to be included in the Web of Science Core Collection. Thus, Duzce Medical Journal, which is indexed in international indexes such as DOAJ, EBSCO, SCOPUS, and also ULAKBİM TR Index as a national index, is now also included in the Emerging Sources Citation Index, adding a new one to the indexes it covered. It has been reported that Duzce Medical Journal will be included in the Emerging Sources Citation Index starting from the 24<sup>th</sup> volume in 2022 as a result of the evaluation by the Web of Science Editorial Team. With this acceptance, Duzce Medical Journal, which has taken its international influence and recognition one step further, continues its work without slowing down or any interruption. The editorial board continues to work to increase the international recognition of Duzce Medical Journal and to be included in more international indexes. Finally, with this new development, the journal cover changed to give it a more innovative appearance and in line with the corporate identity culture of the university. Starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the 26<sup>th</sup> volume, the new cover of the journal has begun to use (Figure 2).

As a publication policy, invited reviews, original research articles, and case reports in the field of basic and clinical sciences from the field of general medicine are evaluated for publication in the Duzce Medical Journal. As the editorial board, we approach each study submitted with the awareness that it is the outcome of a process prepared with great effort by the authors, and we strive to finalize the preliminary evaluation as soon as possible, sharing the excitement of the authors. We strive to serve science and scientists with the aim of getting one step better and further than yesterday, without compromising scientific content and quality.

Hereby, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our reviewers, authors, and readers once again for their interest and contribution to Duzce Medical Journal.



**Figure 1.** Number of citations by years

Source: <https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/19700174637?origin=resultlist>



**Figure 2.** The new cover of the journal since 26<sup>th</sup> volume

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