

# A tremendous year terminated, and a bright future is expected

Hamideh Akbari<sup>1</sup>, Mohammad Jalili<sup>2\*</sup>

1. Emergency Medicine Department, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

2. Emergency Medicine Department, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, editor-in-chief of *Frontiers in Emergency Medicine (FEM)*, Tehran, Iran.

\*Corresponding author: Mohammad Jalili; Email: [mjalili@tums.ac.ir](mailto:mjalili@tums.ac.ir)

Published online: 2024-01-28

Cite this article as: Rahmanian K, Rajabpour V, Rahmanian V et al. A tremendous year terminated, and a bright future is expected. *Front Emerg Med.* 2024;8(1):e1.

The year 2023 terminated and we need to prepare ourselves for a fresh start and a bright future in the coming year. To accomplish this task, the editorial team of *Frontiers in Emergency Medicine (FEM)* looks back on the past and reflects on the successes and failures of the journal. To our great honor, several years of hard work with the generous contribution of international collaborators paid off and FEM obtained its first impact factor this year (1). We strongly believe that complying with the requirements of a well-reputed organization for obtaining high bibliometric indices is an efficient way to keep the journal quality high. We plan to improve the quality of FEM by strengthening the methodological and ethical standards of the journal.

FEM is a quarterly journal and, to our great pleasure, receives far more submissions than its capacity to publish. In the year 2023, a total number of 124 manuscripts were submitted to the journal, with a tremendous increase in the proportion of international submissions in comparison to the year 2022 (40 percent in 2023 versus 28 percent in 2022). Beside submissions from Iran, where the journal office is located, we were privileged to receive contributions from scholars residing in India, Turkey, the United States, Palestine, the United Kingdom, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, as well as many other countries. This diversity is very heart-warming and signals more visibility and familiarity with the journal at an international level. While we were obviously unable to accept all these manuscripts for publication, we sincerely hope that the authors have enjoyed a pleasant experience with our journal editorial workflow and the comments and suggestions from our reviewers have helped them enhance their scientific output.

We are delighted to have papers published with a diversity of methods and designs. These include original studies with both qualitative and quantitative methods, as well as review articles, case reports, and letters. Not surprisingly, a substantial number of the published papers in 2023 were still dealing with various aspects of COVID-19. We received two papers investigating the psychological health problems and their associated risk factors during COVID-19 pandemic among both general population (2) and healthcare profes-

sionals (3) in Ethiopia. Two papers focused on the general population's perception and practices regarding COVID-19. A cross-sectional study looked at the utilization practices of personal protective equipment among Iranian police officers during COVID-19 pandemic (4). Malekshahi et al., assessed the risk perception of COVID-19 among non-infected people who attended the emergency departments (5). Risk stratification and identification of prognostic factors were also an issue of interest to researchers. A Turkish team assessed the prognostic values of some intriguing hematologic indices for predicting mortality in COVID-19 patients (6). A team of researchers from Indonesia and the United Kingdom tried to develop a scoring system for mortality prediction of in-hospital COVID-19 patients in resource-limited settings (7). In an interesting open label phase II trial, Alavi-Moghaddam et al., evaluated the efficacy and safety of sofosbuvir in the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 (8). Finally, some Iranian scholars tried to identify prehospital emergency challenges in the COVID-19 pandemic through a systematic review of the literature (9).

Since 5 May 2023, when the head of the world health organization declared an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency (10), we experienced an influx of submissions on various topics other than COVID-19. Cardiac arrest was an important topic, and three papers tackled this issue. Hwang et al., (11) conducted an interdisciplinary scoping review of clinical literature from 2021. A pretest–posttest study tried to compare three methods of cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in terms of improving the skills of emergency medical technicians (12). An interesting creative study assessed the correlation of immature/total granulocyte ratio with return of spontaneous circulation and early mortality in non-traumatic out-of-hospital cardiac arrests (13). Two papers addressed the structural aspects of the emergency department: an Indian study discussed design strategies to prevent violence against healthcare personnel (14) and another study from Philippines determined emergency department patient utilization and staffing (15).

A myriad of other issues were also the subject of studies reported by the contributors of FEM papers: predictors of mor-

tality and hospitalization in acute pancreatitis (16); effect of vitamin C on coagulation factors and endothelium function in patients with sepsis (17); the relation between ST-segment resolution and in-hospital mortality after primary percutaneous coronary interventions (18); use of forced air warming system on the hemodynamic status during emergency laparotomy (19); renography for evaluation of renal function in renal colic patients (20); use of propranolol for post-accident stress in burn patients (21); effect of vehicle safety on road traffic crash (22); a meta-analysis of the diagnostic value of field assessment stroke triage in identifying the obstruction of large cerebral vessels (23); and a systematic review of literature on accuracy of inverted grayscale mode in radiographs (24).

One of the challenges facing emergency medicine (EM) is the decline in the number of graduate medical students who decide to peruse their training in the field of emergency medicine. While we are experiencing this problem in Iran (25), the issue is not limited to this country. Two of the papers tackled the issue of the specialty choice. A study conducted in Iran evaluated interns' attitude in continuing their education in EM residency programs (26) and a study from Saudi Arabia tried to find out whether EM clerkship change students' misconceptions towards this specialty (27).

The year 2023 also witnessed a change in the editorial team of the journal. Most notably, we will no longer be able to benefit from the tireless efforts of our ex-associate editor, as he opted to make a change in his life and career path and emigrated out of his home country. His contribution to the journal and his undeniable role in the birth of FEM will always be remembered. Fortunately, a new colleague from our emergency medicine department, who has recently obtained his master's degree from the University of Ottawa (28), embarked on board and we expect great improvements in the quality of our peer reviews and the scientific merits of the journal.

In spite of all the aforementioned advances, we face difficulties in the journal. One of our main challenges, which is apparently a common problem for many journals, is to find expert reviewers who kindly accept to perform peer review. With the proliferation of the scientific journals and the excessive burden brought by this to the academicians to perform voluntary peer review, the quality of the papers may be in peril. Publishers and responsible organizations should find a solution for this problem before it is too late.

## References

- Clarivate Master Journal List. 2024. Available at: <https://mjl.clarivate.com/journal-profile> Accessed 26/1/2024.
- Yalew A, Urgessa M, Kumsa K, Hafy Z. Psychological problems and associated factors during COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(4): e35.
- Getachew M, Tadesse H, Degefu N. The severity of mental health problems in healthcare professionals and its associated risk factors during COVID-19 pandemic. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(1):e3.
- Samimiardestani S, Sharifi M, Farhange Ranjbar M. Personal protective equipment usage among Iranian police officers during COVID-19 pandemic; a cross-sectional study. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(1):e5.
- Malekshahi F, Baharvand P, Ghaderinejad H. Assessing the risk perception of COVID-19 among non-infected people attending emergency departments of selected hospitals in western Iran. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(3):e26.
- Satilmis D, Yildiz E, Cevik E. Prognostic values of urea/lymphocyte and LDH/lymphocyte ratios for predicting mortality in COVID-19 patients. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(3):e24.
- Liana P, Murti K, Liberty IA, Hafy Z, Umar TP. Scoring system for mortality prediction of in-hospital COVID-19 patients in resource-limited settings: a single center cohort study during Delta and Omicron Waves. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(4):e37.
- Alavi-Moghaddam M, Sistanizad M, Haghghi M, Sabaghian T, Gholami Chaboki B, Soroureddin Z. Efficacy and safety of sofosbuvir in the treatment of SARS-CoV-2: an open label phase II trial. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(1):e7.
- Eftekhari A, Sharifi T, Baghian N, Askari R. Identification of prehospital emergency challenges in the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic review. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(4):e38.
- United Nations Foundations. available at: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136367> Accessed 26/1/2024.
- W. Hwang C, W. Murphy T, Antoine J, Avery K.L, Carr C, Han F, et al. Cardiac arrest: an interdisciplinary scoping review of clinical literature from 2021. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(1):e8.
- Madadian S, Rahimi M, Saberian P, Hasani-Sharamin P, Orandi A, Jalali A, et al. Comparison of three methods of cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in terms of improving the skills of emergency medical technicians; a pretest-posttest study. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(2):e14.
- RKırın S E, Çıkrıkçı I Sık G, Nur Karaarslan F, Kerem Çorbacıoğlu S, Emektar E, Cevik Y. Correlation of immature/total granulocyte ratio with return of spontaneous circulation and early mortality in nontraumatic out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(3):e27.
- Musharraf W, Mane SS, Musharraf H. A narrative review of emergency department design strategies to prevent violence against healthcare personnel: an Indian perspective. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(2):e20.
- Tabuñar SMS, Pagkatipunan PMN. Determination of emergency department patient utilization and staffing at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH). *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(4):e34.

16. Özdemir S, Altunok I, Algin A. Relationship of the systemic immuno-inflammation index and hematological inflammatory index with mortality and hospitalization in acute pancreatitis: a cross-sectional study. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(2):e13.
17. Amini K, Mojtahedzadeh M, Najafi A, Sharifnia H, Tabatabaei Mohammadi A. Effect of vitamin C on coagulation factors and endothelium function in patients with sepsis. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(2):e16.
18. R. AL-Obaidi F, H. Al-Ali M, Al-Kinani T, Faeel YH, Nassir SH. The relation between ST-segment resolution and in-hospital mortality after primary percutaneous coronary interventions. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023. 2023;7(3):e25.
19. Rousta F, Nazari M, Mohammadipour Anvari H. The effects of forced air warming system on the hemodynamic status, pain intensity, tremors, nausea and vomiting in candidates of emergency laparotomy patients: a double-blind randomized clinical trial. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023. 2023;7(3):e28.
20. Gharepapagh E, Hassanzadeh K, Ghabousian A, Tarighat F, Paknezhad S P, Balafar. Evaluation of renal function with renography in patients with renal colic. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(4):e33.
21. YekeFallah L, Ahmadi A, Taromiha A, Hoseyni N, Mohammadi S. The effect of propranolol on post-accident stress and clinical outcomes of burn patients: a clinical trial. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(4):e36.
22. Zemestani A, Kavousi A, Sadeghi-Bazargani H, Soori H. Measuring the effect of vehicle safety on road traffic crash severity in Iran: using structural equation modeling. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(2):e17.
23. Nasiri-Valikboni A, Baser Y, Adel Ramawad H, Miri R, Yousefifard M. The diagnostic value of the field assessment stroke triage as an emergency destination tool in identifying the obstruction of large cerebral vessels: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(2):e18.
24. Eftekhari M, Jalili M, Karim A, Doosti-Irani A, Mirfazaelian H. Diagnostic accuracy of inverted grayscale mode in radiographs: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023. 2023;7(3):e29.
25. Jalili M. Ups and down of emergency medicine in Iran: an urgent agenda. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(3):e23.
26. Vafaye V, Heydari K, Mardanparvar H, Alizadeh Kaseb A, Safari S. General medicine interns' attitude in continuing their education in emergency medicine residency programs. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(1):e4.
27. Almulhim KN, Mobarki AO, Aljasir AA, Almulhim AF, Almulhim IM. Does emergency medicine clerkship change students' misconceptions towards this specialty? Pre- and post-clerkship perceptions. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(2):e15.
28. Mirfazaelian H, Thiruganasambandamoorthy V. Once in the lifetime experience. *Front Emerg Med.* 2023;7(4):e32.