

Starting the Association's Journal - *Balkan ORL-HNS*

EDITORIAL
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We are excited to announce the start of the official journal of the Balkan Association of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) – *Balkan ORL-HNS*. Although the owner organization, the Balkan Association of ORL-HNS, was established in 1930,¹ it took 92 years to launch its official, open-access scientific journal: better late than never! We began the preparations for the journal five years ago. I was elected as the Editor in Chief of the new journal of the Association at the General Assembly which was held during the 12th Balkan Congress of ORL-HNS in Ohrid, North Macedonia in June 2022. We could organize the financial issues, complete the journal policies, and launch it last year. Then, the launch was announced, submissions were received, and they were carefully reviewed for a good beginning and sustainable publishing.

The Balkans is the name of the peninsula at the south-east Europa, south of the Danube River. Balkan means forest-covered mountain, showing the natural geography of the region.² It can also be a boy's name in Turkish, which I gave to my son. Despite the difficulties in politics in the history of that region, the Balkan people have many common things in their lifestyle, traditions, and culture. There are also similar findings found in several ORL-HNS studies which were done among the countries in the region.^{3,4}

The national ORL-HNS societies of the 11 countries in the Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Türkiye) are the members of the Association, which includes approximately 8000 otolaryngologists in the region.^{1,5} Although some of the societies have their journals, there is no common journal in ORL-HNS in the Balkans. I have editorial experience over 20 years and succeeded to increase significantly the scientific and ethical impact of a Balkan journal - *Balkan Medical Journal*.⁶ In addition, I am currently the President of the *European Association of Science Editors*.⁷ We aim to distribute our knowledge in science publishing to the Balkans by publishing a good example journal regarding publication ethics, research integrity, and current publishing issues.

We wish and work to provide a common, trustful publishing platform for the researchers who are studying on subjects in ORL-HNS. Any original research, especially the epidemiological studies in the region are very welcome. Colleagues may also publish their unpublished results on clinical studies in *Balkan ORL-HNS*. Most of the studies are done with the societies' funds and public money. To contribute to preventing waste in research and publication bias,⁸ we also invite submissions of (1) old, unpublished data, which may still have importance, (2) findings with negative results, and (3) non-novel, replication studies, which are often rejected by other journals.⁹

Finally, *Balkan ORL-HNS* is waiting for your support, especially during the starting years. Depending on our editorial experience, we can add value to your papers with quality reviews and recommendations. Besides scientific evaluation, we can also provide free service on publishing issues such as language editing, copy editing, open access, and distributing the journal worldwide with the financial support of the Balkan Association of ORL-HNS.

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