

# ACTA INFORMATICA MEDICA IS INDEXED IN PUBMED AND ARCHIVED IN PUBMED CENTRAL

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**Editorial ABSTRACT**

Acta Informatica Medica journal has been accepted for archiving in PubMed Central from 2011 onward. The journal started in 1993 as the official journal of the Society

for Medical Informatics of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the last 3 years, Acta Informatica Medica has been included in almost all prestigious online databases, including PubMed, Scopus and EMBASE. The 20th volume of the journal is fully interna-

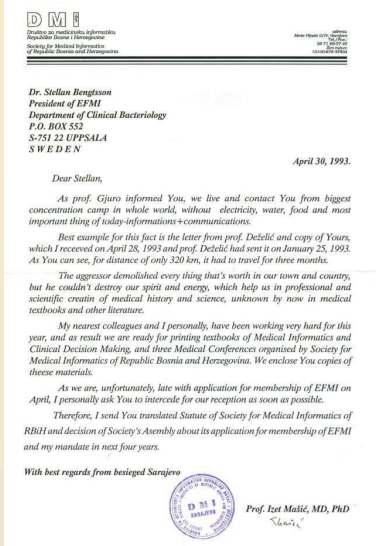
tional, with papers from 18 countries. **Keywords:** Periodicals as topic, indexing, online databases, PubMed Central, medical informatics, science communication, Acta Informatica Medica.

Twenty years ago, at the height of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995), I and Zoran Ridjanovic decided to launch the first journal of medical informatics in Southeast Europe (1, 2, 3). The difficult decision gave birth to a medium of science communication, which

turned out to be a ‘wonder of Sarajevo’. The city was then under siege, which put people in coma for 1479 days. There were no electricity, safe drinking water, food, firewood, and logistics for printing. A package of blank papers for reproduction of 500 sheets costed nearly 30 Euros. This

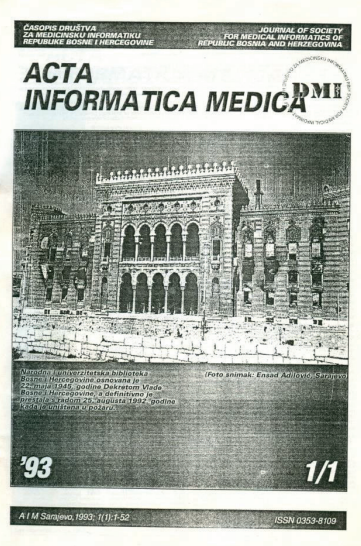
was considered as a scientific curiosity at European and global conferences on medical informatics (2).

The circulation of *Acta Informatica Medica* during the war was roughly 50 copies, printed on a primitive copy-machine and compiled on the hybrid PC XT



Original copy of the letter of I. Masic, president of BHSMI, to S. Bengtsson, president of EFMI, sent from Sarajevo on April 30, 1993, “from the biggest concentration camp in whole world, without electricity, water, food and the most important thing of today: information + communication”

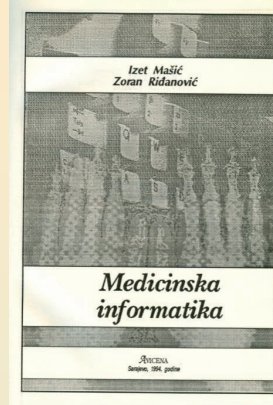
August 30, 2009



First issue of the new journal “Acta Informatica Medica”, published by BHSMI, Chief Editor: Izet Masic; the front cover shows a photo of the National and University Library of B&H destroyed by fire after a gun attack from the Trebevic mountain on August 25, 1992

From the Masic’s letter to Bengtsson: “The aggressor demolished every thing that’s worth in our town and country, but he couldn’t destroy our spirit and energy, which help us in professional and scientific creation of medical history and science, unknown by now in medical textbooks and other literature. – With best regards from besieged Sarajevo”

Gj. Dezelic: After Three Decades of MIE Congresses



Izet Masic and Zoran Ridjanovic: Medical Informatics (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), Sarajevo, February 1994, 757 pp. (A4 format)

1 of 27

Figure 1. Slide presented by prof. Gjuro Dezelic, pioneer of Medical informatics in former Yugoslavia at MIE 2009 Conference in Sarajevo during Opening Ceremony

4.7 MHz, which is almost unbelievable from today's perspective. These print issues were distributed across Europe and elsewhere in the world by prominent political and military officials and representatives of international organizations, such as the Doctors Without Borders and the World Health Organization, visiting Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina with various wartime missions. (figure 1 and 2).

Initially, the journal was published biannually, each issue with 52 pages, binded in the A4 notebooks. At that time, this format was the only feasible option. Later on, the journal moved to the trice-yearly, and finally to the quarterly publishing frequency in English only in the past five years.

Gradually, interest of the readership to health informatics in war and post-war conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina had grown. And many great authors contributed to the quality of the journal by submitting papers of interest to local and international healthcare experts. Without exaggeration, papers published in *Acta Informatica Medica* allowed overcoming information blockade in Sarajevo and solving essential healthcare issues of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1990s. Further development of the journal as a specialized reference for experts in health informatics and science communication raised its prestige among experts from professional associations in the former Yugoslavian countries and in Europe at large.

In the post-war years, the journal had an advantage to be represented at almost all meetings of the European Federation for Medical Informatics (EFMI) and the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA). As a recognition of the international reach and comprehensive coverage of medical informatics, the journal became an official organ of EFMI in 2005 (1). It has also become a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), the UK-based organizations promoting standards of science communication and journal quality improvements globally. *Acta Informatica Medica* was represented at the latest conference of EASE in Tallinn, Estonia (4).

One of the major improvements for the journal was the expansion of the Editorial Board in the past few years, that now includes eminent journal editors, experts in various fields of medical informatics and communication from all over the world, actively contributing to the quality of the constantly growing number of submissions. The re-shape of the journal in the past few years was



Figure 2. Impressum of Acta Inform Med 2006-2011

mainly due to the constructive criticism and editorial support of icons in current medical informatics, Arie Hasman, Reinhold Haux, John Mantas, Jacob Hofdijk, Gjuro Dezelic and many devoted scientists, who guided us through the journal indexing labyrinths. Our editors committed themselves to following all the recommendations aimed at improving citability and indexability of scholarly journals (5, 6).

Though there is still much work to be done, we should appreciate passing the key milestones toward global journal visibility. In the past two years, *Acta Informatica Medica* was accepted for coverage/citation tracking by Scopus, EMBASE, PubMed, PubMed Central, and some other prestigious international databases. The total number of abstracting and cataloguing online databases for the journal is now exceeding 20.

Archiving of the Acta by PubMed Central puts it in the very short list of medical/health informatics and science

communication publications with global visibility. Notably, there are now only 29 journals listed in the medical informatics category by the Science Citation Index Expanded® (SciSearch®) database. This gives us a unique opportunity to attract more prestigious citations and eventually get indexed by the Web of Science® and Thomson Reuters' other relevant databases.

Remarkably, the acceptance for indexing and archiving by PubMed and PubMed Central coincides with the 20th anniversary of the journal. Undoubtedly, this great achievement comes as a reward for relentless efforts of our international editorial team.

The 20th volume of the journal is fully international. It contains articles from the following 18 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Iran, Qatar, Turkey, USA, Egypt, Albania, Austria, Macedonia, Malaysia, Sudan, Iraq, China, India, Greece, UK. Understandably, most papers in this jubilee volume

The screenshot shows the PubMed search results page for the query "acta inform med". The search results are displayed in a list format, with each entry including a checkbox, a title link, authors, journal information, and a PMID. The page also features various filters and options on the left and right sides, such as "Show additional filters", "Display Settings", "Send to", "Find related data", "Search details", and "Recent activity".

**Results: 70**

- [Right-sided perforated ascending colonic diverticulum mimicking acute appendicitis.](#)  
Bilic Komarica E, Zvizdic Z.  
*Acta Inform Med*. 2012 Dec;20(4):269-70. doi: 10.5455/aim.2012.20.269-270.  
PMID: 23378699 [PubMed] **Free PMC Article**  
[Related citations](#)
- [Endoscopic removal of a giant ethmoid osteoma with orbital extension.](#)  
Muderris T, Bercin S, Sevil E, Kiris M.  
*Acta Inform Med*. 2012 Dec;20(4):266-8. doi: 10.5455/aim.2012.20.266-268.  
PMID: 23378698 [PubMed] **Free PMC Article**  
[Related citations](#)
- [Impaction of durian seed in the larynx.](#)  
Ramza Ramli R, Mohamad I, Mohamad Zaki Z.  
*Acta Inform Med*. 2012 Dec;20(4):264-5. doi: 10.5455/aim.2012.20.264-265.  
PMID: 23378697 [PubMed] **Free PMC Article**  
[Related citations](#)
- [Co-existing of sinonasal inverted papilloma and angiofibroma: case report and review of the literature.](#)  
Shahrjerdi B, Angoyaroko A, Abdullah B.  
*Acta Inform Med*. 2012 Dec;20(4):261-3. doi: 10.5455/aim.2012.20.261-263.  
PMID: 23378696 [PubMed] **Free PMC Article**  
[Related citations](#)
- [The MRI findings of iris metastasis in patients with breast cancer.](#)  
Mutlu H, Akça Z, Büyükçelik A, Öztürk M, Taşdemir M, Kubilay Yazıcıoğlu A, Kaplan B, Uçar K.  
*Acta Inform Med*. 2012 Dec;20(4):259-60. doi: 10.5455/aim.2012.20.259-260.  
PMID: 23378695 [PubMed] **Free PMC Article**  
[Related citations](#)

Figure 3. Acta Inform Med site on PMC (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/1933/>)

are from B&H –17, followed by Malaysia – 4, India and Turkey–3, USA, Kosovo, Iraq and Macedonia–2. The ratio of articles from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the international ones is 0.6. The large proportion of articles are in applied medical informatics (73.3%), followed by preclinical articles (15.5%), and those in public health informatics (11.1%). Time from submission to acceptance of the articles is now up to 2 months.

We will continue prioritizing original research papers and reviews from Balkan countries and Southeastern Europe, as this journal is the only English-language and PubMed Central-archived medium of communication in its field in this part of the world.

Standards of sharing validated and easily understandable scientific information will be also discussed on pages of our journal to contribute to the regional growth of science. More peers will be involved in the reviewing and commenting

submissions to filter out research papers with weak methodology and low level of evidence.

As the journal is now visible on PubMed (figure 3) a service of the US National Library of Medicine and an interface for evidence-based biomedical information (7), we are now obliged to publish papers with strong evidence to contribute to the global pool of scientific knowledge (“*Noblesse oblige*”).

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