

Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Public Health, EBPH: a new vision for two old journals

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The launch of this new journal, Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Public Health (EBPH), enables us to embrace new challenges, and renew our commitment to our readers, our authors and fellow editors, and ultimately to the public health community worldwide.

EBPH is an open access journal streaming from two previous journals, one focused on public health (The Italian Journal of Public Health, <http://ijphjournal.it/>) [1-8], and another on biostatistics and epidemiology - including clinical epidemiology (Biomedical Statistics and Clinical Epidemiology) [9-13]. Our aim is to maintain such the broad scope of interest of our parent journals, thus producing a journal with a uniquely wide coverage of all these fields, and our key dedication and commitment will be towards contributing a relevant impact on major public health issues worldwide.

The keyword of EBPH is evidence-based health decisions, i.e. the decisions should be taken using the best available scientific evidence for any individual patient. At the public health and policy level, these decisions are usually focused on populations and include considerations about availability of resources and costs. A challenge of EBPH consists in bridging producers and users of public health evidence, or in other words to link the scientific community with health decision makers.

For this reason, we invite submission of papers on any aspect of public health research and practice, including rigorous methods and original findings from healthcare and health promotion research, and with a special focus on translational research. Papers on public health ethics and law are also welcome. In fact, our aim is to promote the highest standards of public health practice internationally through a timely communication of current, best scientific evidence and standard of ethics.

We will give priority for publication to original reports and reviews on current topics (e.g. the current economic crisis, and the consequent health inequalities), health economics, as well as to the publication of meta- and pooled-analyses of large datasets on a regional and global scale. Papers on clinical epidemiology, on innovative methods in biostatistics are also welcome, specifically those with practical applications to the analysis of clinical and epidemiological data. In any case, our main criteria for grading manuscripts remain originality and impact, as well as relevance to public health practice.

There will be 4 issues per year, hosting around 12 papers each. Additionally, a section will focus on the complex and delicate role played by the media and by responsible, independent journalism. The history corner that accompanied the Italian Journal of Public Health for a long time will continue to host invited contribution on key personalities in the field covered by the journal.

We have also worked to improve the publishing experience for our authors. We have now a new, more efficient, online editorial system with the aim of a streamlined and faster submission and review process. This will pay immediate returns for our authors, providing more rapid decisions and shorter time to publication. Online publication of the manuscripts will be available immediately after acceptance.

Finally, EBPH could not achieve its mission without the continuous and dedicated stewardship of the funding editors of its two parent journals, Drs. Gianni Corrao and Walter Ricciardi. We are grateful for their vision in creating a new, broadly oriented journal, and for their continuous leadership. We at EBPH wish our readers and our authors a productive and successful 2013.

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