

Walking across evidence and sustainability of public health policies - do we need a new journal?

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Despite the title, this is not an announcement of a new journal. With the first issue of 2013, the *Italian Journal of Public Health* will change its name, after ten years, and *Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Public Health (EBPH)* is ready to pick up the baton.

With the launch of *Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Public Health*, the *Italian Journal of Public Health* incorporates another existing journal: *Biomedical Statistics and Clinical Epidemiology*.

The two main reasons for this change lie both in the title of the new journal. The first one refers to public health as the key of our scientific and editorial policy.

EBPH aims to be a support for the International scientific community in its efforts to reduce the negative impact on public health of the current economic situation, and most specifically to provide scientific evidence to serve as a basis for the difficult economic and financial choices now required in any Public Health policy.

The second line of reasoning relates to methodological aspects of our disciplines, including the descriptive and analytic epidemiology and biostatistics, both of which have a well recognized tradition. We believe it is now time to open the tradition of the Italian Schools of Public Health to the international community, enhancing their quality and scientific level thus assisting the integration with the European and Global Community.

This is now particularly urgent given the uncertainties and difficulties of public health. In fact, besides the open issues of demographic and epidemiologic transitions, the current economic crisis and its implications on social welfare and health care level may have an unfavourable impact on population health, but it may also create the conditions for a fruitful challenge. In 1955 Albert Einstein stated that *"A crisis can be a real blessing to any person, to any nation. For all crises bring progress. Creativity is born from anguish. Just like the day is born from the dark night. It's in crisis that inventive is born, as well as discoveries, and big strategies... Not to speak about it is to exalt conformism. Let us work hard instead. Let us stop, once and for all, the menacing crisis that represents the tragedy of not being willing to overcome it."*

EBPH will welcome submissions on all issues around public health, on basic and applied research in epidemiology and biostatistics methodology with the goal of favouring the integration with public health and its practical implication on a decisional level. *EBPH* will replace *Biomedical Statistics and Clinical Epidemiology* as official journal of the Italian Society of Medical Statistics and Clinical Epidemiology (SISMEC). This is also an indication of the future prospective of the Journal. Our hope is that methodological aspects of epidemiology and biostatistics and the practical applications of public health will converge leading *EBPH* to become an instrument of scientific integration across disciplines and national boundaries, in principle supporting practical decisions.

The debate in the Italian scientific and academic community that lead to the publication of *EBPH*

led to the decision of publishing in English - with the goal of maximizing leadership and asseverating the journal's indexing in major databases - identifying two Editors in Chief and an Editorial Board including recognized scientist in scientific community, and adopt innovative resources such as open web access.

Our thanks go to our editors in Chief Stefania Boccia and Carlo La Vecchia, to our Publisher Pietro Bruschi and particularly to many of those who have established our schools of public health, epidemiology and biostatistics: Bruno Angelillo, Antonio Boccia, Francesco Grigoletto, Alessandra Marinoni, Ettore Marubini and Giancarlo Vanini.

