

Where the Italian Journal of Public Health is going? A tale of the last two years

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Two years ago, speaking about the future of the Italian Journal of Public Health, we told that the reason why the journal is also an international journal (almost 40% of published papers come from outside Italy) is “mainly due to our membership to EUPHA and to several scientific network” [1]. However, the authorship of the papers has gone beyond the European borders. In fact, we recently published papers from Argentina [2], Brasil [3, 4], Canada [5], India [6, 7], Iran [8], Pakistan [9, 10], Arab United Emirates [11], USA [12, 13], Republic of Macedonia [14], Australia [15].

As editorial policy, our journal in 2009 adhered to the best known way in reporting systematic reviews according to the PRISMA Statement [16] and in reporting genetic association studies using the STREGA approach, an extension of the STROBE statement [17].

In 2010 we entered in the number of journals that consider fundamental to report the results of randomized trial, according to the CONSORT statement [18].

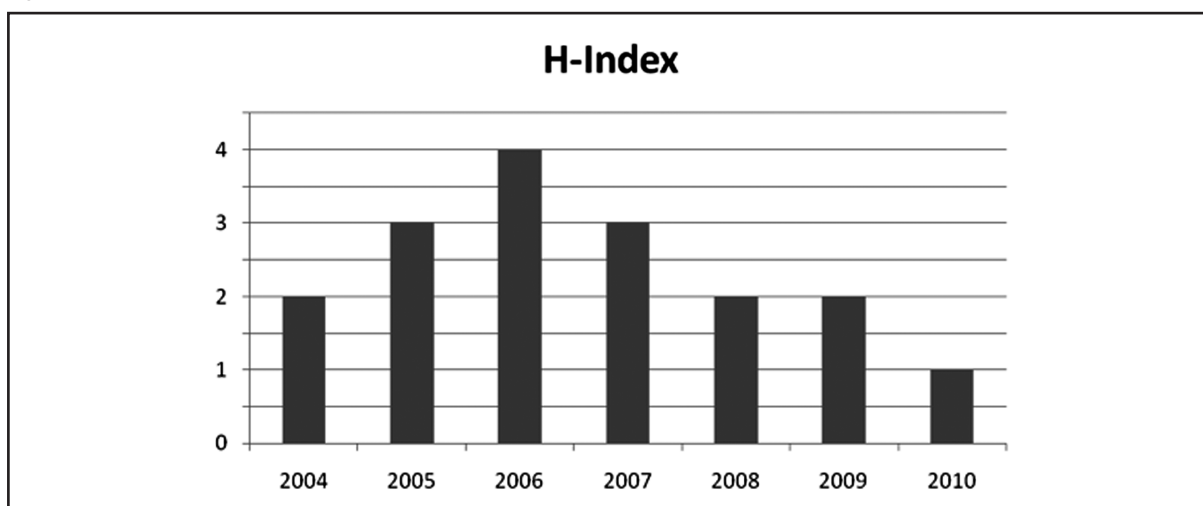
All these efforts were made for letting the reader more confident with the results of the researches presented in the Journal, but also giving a clear signal to the authors concerning the high quality of the standards requested for a paper suitable for publication.

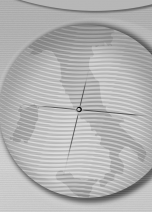
In line with the previous Editorship [19] we published 8 thematic issues on Public Health in Eastern Europe [20], Health Services Research [21], Vaccinations policies [22], Rare Diseases [23], Surveillance systems in Public health [24], Injury and Violence Epidemiology [25], Baccus, Tobacco and Venus [26] and Public Health in the Americas [27].

One of the most interesting innovations in the last two years was the implementation of the Public Health History Corner [28-35] that under the responsibility of Roberto Bucci, looked to the past to find possible explanations of current health problems.

And what would be the impact of our journal in the near future? Following the suggestions raised in the paper by Solimini [36] we tried to make a little exercise concerning a unofficial Impact Factor and H-index of the Italian Journal of Public Health. For journals that have not been tracked for long enough to have an Impact Factor, or are not yet tracked by Thomson Reuters (ISI), according to BioMed Central it is possible to calculate a unofficial Impact Factor [37]. Unofficial 2010 Impact Factor for the Italian Journal of Public Health was calculated by dividing the number of times articles published in 2008 and 2009 that were cited in 2010 based on a search of the Scopus and Google Scholar databases, by the number of articles published in

Figure 1. H-Index of the Italian Journal of Public Health.





the previous two years (2008 and 2009). On the basis of this procedure we would have a unofficial IF 2010 = $47/109 = 0.43$.

In relation to the H-Index, since the Italian Journal of Public Health is covered by Scopus only

from 2008 onwards, we used the Google Scholar database as the main source for tracking the number of citations of the papers, giving a picture presented in Figure 1. Young but beautiful.

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