

The future of the Italian Journal of Public Health

When Prof. Ricciardi shared with me the idea of passing the witness of the editorship of the Italian Journal of Public Health, we were walking in a beautiful square in Lisbon, where we were attending to the annual EUPHA meeting. It was a cloudy and humid night, and at that time I did not realise fully all the possible implications of this decision. Anyway, I accepted.

It is a big honour for me to be the successor of Prof. Ricciardi as Editor in Chief of this journal, and this for several reasons, from the academic and personal points of view.

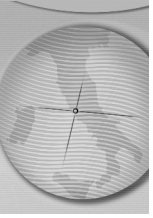
In the last seven years, the Italian Journal of Public Health has been a sort of contradiction in terms. It is with no doubt an Italian journal, in which many contributions from all over Italy appeared. But it is also an international journal, not only because it is written in English, but also due to the fact that almost 40% of published papers come from outside Italy. The reason why this has happened is mainly due to our membership to EUPHA and to several scientific network (this issue is a practical explanation of this kind of activity), and I really thank all colleagues who so kindly send in their manuscripts.

One says that a winning team doesn't need to be changed, and it is so. But there is something new at the editorial level that I want to underline. In the last weeks I shared a strong effort for developing the new editorial line and new ideas with Stefania Boccia (new co-editor), Roberto Bucci (new Editorial Manager), Alice Mannocci (new Statistical Editor), Chiara de Waure and Claudia Corsetti (new entries in the Editorial Staff).

In every passing of witness, there is a continuity from past to future. On 2009 issues we decided to maintain the distinction between thematic and free papers. This year we will address themes of intrinsic interest, such as Public Health in Eastern Europe, Health Services Research, Vaccinations policies and Rare Diseases. Moreover, we will add something new. As an example, starting from this issue the Public Health History Corner, under the responsibility of Roberto Bucci, we will look to the past to find possible explanations of current health problems. Others will be taken in place in the next issues.

The future of the journal will pass through some critical points:

- The journal is actually indexed by the National Library of Medicine, and the next step will be the visibility of the abstracts on the scientific literature databases;
- The level of expertise of peer reviewers is a key element for a good quality of the published manuscripts, and our aim will be to improve the high level already reached;
- The level of submitted manuscripts is related also to the visibility of the journal. At this point in time the printed version of the journal is read by at least 2000 readers at the European level, and the new system of retrieving past articles for free allow this visibility. A special thank to the Publisher PREX in supporting this;
- The support of the Companies that work in the field of prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases through advertisement will be fundamental in order to avoid for me to be an "editor in cheap".



A final point is concerning subscription. With the help of the Publisher PREX, **we decided that for 2009 the subscription will be free of charge.** I await your suggestions, comments and criticism; finally I can only say good reading and submitting to the Italian Journal of Public Health.

Giuseppe La Torre

IJPH incoming Editor in Chief