

A novel Maltese medical journal

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PubMed is a leading and free database of references and abstracts published in academic journals pertaining to the life sciences and biomedical topics. The database is maintained by the United States government via the National Library of Medicine at the National Institute of Health and there are millions of articles indexed in this repository. Well over 5000 journals are represented and the decision as to whether or not to index a journal is based on considerations of both scientific policy and scientific quality. A journal applying for inclusion and indexing in PubMed must have ample scope and coverage, along with adequate technical merit in the papers represented. The journal must also demonstrate suitably high levels of objectivity, credibility and quality.

A journal with sufficiently high standards may also be indexed in PubMed if it is accepted for inclusion in PubMed Central (PMC), an even larger and free open-access repository that archives publicly accessible full-text papers within the biomedical and life sciences literature. One of the preconditions for consideration for indexing is that the papers included must be made completely available, for free: text, tables and graphics. This repository now houses millions of papers.

Images in Paediatric Cardiology was the first Maltese journal to be indexed in PMC, and this journal has been active since 1999. It was created by one of the authors of this editorial (VG) in conjunction with a prestigious international Editorial Board. The journal has always been open-access, and is published quarterly.

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The previous Editorial Board of the *Malta Medical Journal* attempted to include the MMJ in PubMed but did not meet with success as the journal was deemed to have too low a circulation. The current Editorial Board applied for the MMJ to be included in PMC (not PubMed) in 2013. A negative decision was communicated to the MMJ Editorial Board this year, phrased thusly:

I regret to inform you that Malta Medical Journal has not passed the first stage of acceptance to PMC. NLM has determined that the journal does not meet PMC's Scientific Quality standard. The application to PMC will not be accepted at this time. Malta Medical Journal is eligible to reapply in 24 months from today. NLM would like to see an overall improvement in the quality of science.

After deliberation both within the Editorial Board and within the Faculty Board of Medicine, it was decided to revamp the MMJ and create a new in-house, peer-reviewed journal in the hope that eventual reapplication for MMJ inclusion in PMC would be successful.

The MMJ will henceforth only review papers that are:

1. Research articles of sufficient scientific quality.
2. Potential international interest.
3. This does not exclude the review of sufficiently rare/unusual case reports or images.

The new journal will be launched in 2017 and will be called the *Mater Dei Hospital Gazette*. This will only review papers that are of:

1. Sufficient scientific quality. Audits will be reviewed but must have completed the audit cycle and include out-come implementation.
2. Potentially only of local interest.
3. This includes the review of rare/unusual case reports or images.

Editorial

The Editorial Board of both journals will be led by the authors of this editorial and will include the editors of the MMJ. Submissions to both journals will continue as previously and should adhere to the instructions to the authors on the MMJ website. A website for the *Mater Dei Hospital Gazette* will also be created and its instructions pertaining to papers submitted to this journal must also be adhered to.

It is hoped that this new, peer-reviewed journal will serve as an outlet for the publication of high-quality material that is of only local interest.

Cover Picture:

'Memento Vivere'

Watercolours

By Christian Camilleri

Christian Camilleri Christian Camilleri is an anaesthesia trainee who began painting in childhood. His preferred medium and subject consist of watercolour figures, portraits and battle scenes. He derives inspiration from both Baroque and early 20th Century sources.

Corinthia Group Prize in Paediatrics, 2016



Only once before, since its inception in 1999, has the Corinthia Group Prize in Paediatrics been shared by two doctors. However, in 2016, the prize was yet again awarded jointly to Dr Sarah Micallef and Dr Samuel Zahra, who both obtained the highest aggregate mark over the combined examinations in Paediatrics in the fourth and final year of the undergraduate course. Whilst offering our congratulations to both Drs Micallef and Zahra, we would also like to congratulate all those who performed admirably during the undergraduate course in Paediatrics. In the accompanying photograph, Dr Sarah Micallef and Dr Samuel Zahra are seen receiving their prizes from Professor Simon Attard Montalto, Head of Paediatrics, in the Boardroom of the Medical School. Finally, the Academic Department of Paediatrics and Medical School remain indebted and are extremely grateful to the Corinthia Group for their ongoing support.

Professor Simon Attard Montalto