

PREFACE

Dear authors, dear readers,

When *Physiologia Bohemoslovaca* (the ancestor of *Physiological Research*) was founded in 1951, one could hardly expect that this journal will survive 70 years of its existence. Under the bright supervision of its Editor-in-Chief Prof. Arnošt Gutmann *Physiologia Bohemoslovaca* became one of the tools for international distribution of Czech and Slovak biomedical science. Its Impact Factor (IF) reached 1.028 in 1965. Nevertheless, the subsequent emigration of many prominent scientists together with the effort to publish the results of Czechoslovak science in western journals caused a stepwise reduction of its Impact Factor to values as low as 0.2.

In 1990, Prof. Bohuslav Ošťádal asked me to take over the role of Managing Editor of *Physiologia Bohemoslovaca*, which changed its name to *Physiological Research*. It was scheduled as a temporary solution of existing problems, but thanks to a close cooperation with Dr. Jaroslav Kuneš we succeeded to prolong the existence of this journal. Unfortunately, nobody has told us how difficult and long will be to reach again the level achieved by Gutmann and colleagues in the 60's. It lasted more than 10 years to transform our journal into a modern Open-Access medium with a possibility to access the full texts of our articles

on-line. Further 15 years were necessary to establish a relative financial self-support of the journal.

The enclosed figure shows the changes of journal IF in the course of its existence. It is evident that its moderate improvement in the last years was still not sufficient to promote *Physiological Research* to higher quartiles. This was a reason for my January appeal to Czech and Slovak colleagues that we can hardly improve the prestige of our journal without an increased number of review articles written by experts in particular research field or without special issues focused on the interesting research topics.

I was quite surprised by the prompt positive response of numerous authors who promised to submit their reviews to our journal. We obtained more than 30 review articles which enabled us to create not only this supplement to the 70th anniversary of journal foundation but also another supplement devoted to the pathophysiology of COVID-19 disease. I was deeply impressed by this wave of journal support, which I also consider as a certain appreciation of my editorial work in the last 30 years.

Josef Zicha
Managing Editor
Physiological Research

