The changes in the format and layout of our previous double issue of the RAD Medical Sciences 537 = 46-47 have been led the great attention and received general approval in our community. The high interest in our journal is the best reflected in the frequent calls and emails with the most common question of where RAD Medical Sciences is indexed or in which citation databases are we represented. The interest in potential article submission has come mainly from the members of the academic community and, of course, primarily from younger colleagues, mostly those in postgraduate studies. It is a well-known fact that there is a certain obsession in the scientific community, and especially at universities, in applying quantitative metric indicators of the scientific researches relevant to the ranking of universities on the world rankings, or the value of an institution, or individual in the context of an allocation for some funding, professional scientific advancement, etc., etc.

To avoid metrics becoming a goal rather than an instrument of scientific evaluation, scientists, their associations, and scientists in the field of scientometric have warned several international initiatives and declarations about the inconsistent and arbitrary application of metrics and the dangers that result, as it stands out, as wrote Professor Jelka Petrak in an article titled "Not all quotes" and published in the journal of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb (me.hr 38 (1): 102, 2019.)

It always goes beyond the scope of this Editorial debate on the importance of citation for the evaluation of a journal, and it would be too potent for us to engage in this discussion based on the achievements of this small Journal so far, but in accordance with our efforts in further development of our Journal, we will cite our editor-in-chief Marko Pećina, published in the internationally renowned journal International Orthopedics (in which M. Pećina is the Editor-Emeritus):

“A journalist’s contribution to the scientific literature and its impact on the scientific community is reflected by its citations. Specifically, the acknowledgement that one article gives is another citation, whereas the acknowledgement that the referenced article receives is a citation. Citation counts vary considerably by research area and databases. The Internet has dramatically changed the way of sharing and the speed of medical information flow. In general, Google Scholar shows a greater number of citations, followed by Scopus® and then Web of Science®. Currently, web platforms and professional sites provide specific information on defined fields of science, and social media is allowed for inputs from the general public. These are changing the scene of the publishing industry from the concept of the impact factor to alternative metrics (known as the Altmetrics) that measure the impact of a paper-based on social media attention including the number of downloads, reads, views, clicks, likes, hits and tweets. Sourced from the Web, altmetrics can measure how often papers and other scholarly outputs like datasets are discussed and used around the world. For example, a paper published in 2017 received 2-3 citations in JCR, but more than 1500 reads and downloads in the same period. Therefore, it is important to consider altmetrics in the evaluation of scientific papers.” Int Orthop 42(11):2499-2505, 2018.

Pećina and colleagues in the Editorial of the already mentioned journal Int. Orthop 39(8):1459-1464, 2015. states, among other things, that "social and professional media have
challenged the traditional, acknowledged or past metrics for academic and scientific impact. In scholarly and scientific publishing, altmetrics are non-traditional metrics proposed as alternatives to more traditional citation impact metrics, such as IF. The term altmetrics was proposed in 2010 as a generalization of article-level metrics. Although altmetrics are often thought of as metrics about articles, they can be applied to people, journals, books, data sets, presentations, videos, source code repositories, web pages, etc. Altmetrics cover not just citation counts, but also other aspects of the impact of a work, such as how many data and knowledge bases refer to it, article views, downloads or mentions in social media and news media. Altmetrics is a very broad group of metrics, capturing various parts of impact paper or work can have.

Following the above, we will show the visibility of RAD of Medical Science on the portal of Croatian scientific and professional journals HRČAK (“hamster”), on which RAD has been since November 11th, 2007.

Now, the RAD CASA Medical Sciences is included in the following databases: EBSCO (www.ebsco.com), Google Scholar (scholar.google.com), HRČAK (Portal of Croatian Scientific and Professional Journals) and DiZbi (the Digital Collection of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts: DiZbi.HAZU). All articles published in the Journal have valid DOI number and are stored in the Croatian Web Archive (HAW). Our efforts are focused on the mission that RAD CASA Medical sciences will be included in other international databases such as Medline and Scopus soon. The actual double issue 48-49 includes three original papers, five review articles, three case reports. We would particularly like to point out two essays we accepted in this issue. Each has a specific and interesting approach to the topic, in the first essay author present the transfer of knowledge and experts between Vienna, Zagreb, inter-war China and the USSR about public health and medicine. In the second one, authors present the research about health conditions and most represented illnesses of Frontiersmen in the second part of the 19th century based on the Austrian State Archives.

We always continue informing our readers about the events held at the scientific symposia or congresses organised or sponsored by the Department of Medical Sciences and we are also pleased to present book review published by the members of our Department. To sum up, in this editorial we would like to point out a little about journal evaluation indicators, but also the fact that we all need to be aware of the meaning of applying metric indicators. In that spirit, we conclude: „From the Editors‘ point of view, we do feel concerned about the citation of published papers and the visibility of our Journal.”

Literature: