

From the Editor-in-Chief

Launching a new scientific journal is always an act of courage and trust – in the profession, in colleagues and in the idea that knowledge is only valuable when shared. The *Croatian Journal of Anesthesiology and Intensive Medicine* (CJAIM) was born out of this faith.

In a time when clinical work and scientific research are increasingly intertwined, our goal is to create a space where experience from hospital practice, academic curiosity and international scientific standards will meet. The journal brings together a community of anesthesiologists, intensivists and pain specialists in Croatia and the region, but also beyond. Our ambition is not only to record progress, but also to encourage it – through the publication of original research, case reports, guidelines and review articles that can improve everyday practice. We particularly encourage an interdisciplinary approach: from basic sciences and pharmacology, through clinical anesthesiology and intensive care, to ethics, education and the organisation of health systems.

Science is only credible when it is transparent, ethical and open to criticism. That is why we have based our editorial and peer review procedures on the principles of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). All manuscripts undergo a double-blind peer review, and the editorial board consistently applies the rules on conflict of interest, ethical approval, and the right to privacy of subjects.

In a digital environment where the line between scientific accuracy and fast information is often blurred, CJAIM will be a place where reliability is put before speed, and content before impression. Open access in our case is not a commercial model, but an editorial decision – a decision to make knowledge available to anyone who wants to apply it. We do not charge for publication, and the entire content of the journal is freely available in electronic form. We believe that the accessibility, quality, and integrity of the work will be the best measure of our success.

This journal does not belong to one institution or one city; it belongs to the community. The editorial board is open to collaboration with all clinicians, researchers, and students who share our passion for anesthesiology and critical care. We especially invite young authors to submit their first manuscripts – because scientific excellence does not begin with a finished work, but with the first idea we dare to share.

On behalf of the editorial board, I would like to thank all colleagues who helped create CJAIM: the authors who trusted us, the reviewers who put their knowledge at the service of quality, and the institutions that recognised the importance of this project. Our task is simple, but demanding – to preserve the credibility of the scientific world and promote a culture of learning, collaboration and ethics in medicine.

I invite you to join us. Submit your papers, comments and suggestions. Write with courage, review with honesty, read with curiosity. Only in this way will this journal become what it should be – living proof that knowledge makes sense when it connects people.

Slobodan Mihaljević

Editor-in-Chief