



AOTT

ACTA ORTHOPAEDICA et TRAUMATOLOGICA TURCICA

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear AOTT readers,

2021 is coming to an end, yet another year under pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking at “from the editor” of the last issue in 2020, we have envisioned that the nightmare was almost over, alas another variant Omicron (B.1.1.529) has emerged! This variant has a large number of mutations, some of which are concerning. Preliminary evidence suggests an increased risk of reinfection with this variant, as compared to other variant of concerns. *“Individuals are reminded to take measures to reduce their risk of COVID-19, including proven public health and social measures such as wearing well-fitting masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, improving ventilation of indoor spaces, avoiding crowded spaces, and getting vaccinated”*¹.

In the office, we are working hard to improve our article turnaround durations. I believe first response (decision) is the most important of all, since it is not only important to bring eligible articles to their best shape, but it is even more important to provide rejection decisions to authors in due time. In 2021 we kept the trend in decreasing our first response time down to an average of 22 days. This was made possible by the fast tracking of our publisher, dedication, and hardworking of our associate editors and of course, by the fast-reacting reviewers.

Another important subject that I would like to mention as the Editor of an open access journal is our “article processing fee (APC)” update. The publishing industry has gone through several important changes in the last decades from a pay-to-read to a pay-to-publish income system. The main driving factors of this change are a matter of debate but today, it has become the main standard of scientific publishing. We decided to conduct a survey among our readers, authors, reviewers to have their views on fair way to share expenses of being open access. We will start sending out the questionnaire before the end of the year.

In this last issue of 2021, as an ongoing tradition, I have the honor of presenting you a list of our reviewers of the year 2021. On behalf of our authors, readers and the Editorial Board, I would like to thank all our esteemed reviewers, especially those who honored all our review requests. Last but not least, it would have been impossible to handle all reviewer notes and reports without endless efforts and contributions of associate editors, to whom I am indebted.

Respectfully yours,

Haluk Berk M.D.

Editor-in-Chief Acta Orthopaedica et Traumatologica Turcica

Reference

1. [https://www.who.int/news/item/26-11-2021-classification-of-omicron-\(b.1.1.529\)-sars-cov-variant-of-concern](https://www.who.int/news/item/26-11-2021-classification-of-omicron-(b.1.1.529)-sars-cov-variant-of-concern)