

Editorial

Hospitals: A Journal Title with Many Meanings and One Vision

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“Hospitals” as a name for a journal might appear simply as an umbrella term for healthcare-relevant research. It is certainly an inclusive and ambitious choice of title. We aspire for *Hospitals* to be a melting pot, and a home for all researchers interested in improving and innovating hospital policies, governance, and services, and empowering patients. From patient safety to hospital governance, from surgical simulation to employee management, from autopsies to implementation of artificial intelligence, from hospital virtopsy to assessment of medical devices, and from medical malpractice to risk management, papers on biomedical, medico-legal, economic, and legal aspects of hospital functions will be warmly welcomed.

We acknowledge that some may be skeptical of a journal with such a broad scope. We are confident that this effort will be of great value to many fields, and we will work diligently to make *Hospitals* (ISSN 2813-4524) [1] a meaningful and sound reflection of current issues and innovations in hospital care and management.

COVID-19 has radically changed healthcare, forcing hospitals to reorganize services and to find new tools to enhance safety of patients and providers [2]. At the same time, it has led to new economic, legal, and medico-legal issues that concern both healthcare institutions and professionals [3]. Despite negative aspects of the so-called “paperdemic”, the unprecedented and kaleidoscopic research interests that have developed during the pandemic have stimulated the debate over under-investigated yet fundamental issues, such as the importance of clinical autopsies to distinguish those who have died from infections versus with infections. Moreover, the pandemic has stressed the importance of a careful evaluation of medical, legal, socio-economic, and ethical issues related to healthcare technologies. Personal data in medical records have been shared for public health purposes on a massive scale, challenging the traditional balance between public interests and individual rights [4]. We have seen that the pandemic has raised new challenges and introduced new methods to deliver healthcare, while also obscuring some issues. For instance, especially in the first phase of the pandemic, hospital admissions due to acute cardiac conditions or interpersonal violence decreased, endangering fundamental rights of every person [5,6].

The core research area of our journal will be patient safety and hospital management of clinical and medico-legal risks. This covers a wide range of potential topics: promoting compliance with evidence-based standards; implementing health technology; assessing new methods to enhance safety; balancing the prevention of medical malpractice claims and patients' rights; the early identification of at-risk patients; the cost-effectiveness analysis of hospital policies; and the discussion of legal and economic principles of general interest for hospital management. *Hospitals* is determined to cover them all with research articles and studies that are impactful, rigorous, and informative.

The journal is open access, and each submitted paper will be reviewed by selected peers efficiently and objectively. The editorial board will be multidisciplinary, reflecting the



Citation: Oliva, A.; Ozonoff, A.; Caputo, M.; Grassi, S. *Hospitals: A Journal Title with Many Meanings and One Vision*. *Hospitals* **2023**, *1*, 1–2. <https://doi.org/10.3390/hospitals1010001>

Received: 21 October 2022
Accepted: 1 November 2022
Published: 9 November 2022



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diverse and wide potential audience of the journal. We are committed to make *Hospitals* a journal of high impact and remarkable international reputation. Therefore, we will be grateful and delighted to receive and review papers of all kinds (e.g., original research, systematic/scoping/narrative reviews, case reports) that convey innovative and appealing content. Our suggestion to potential authors is to prioritize the translational value of their research, attempting to challenge the status quo in hospital care and management.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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