

Fostering the future: A dedicated section for junior researchers in *Acta Biomedica*

In an era where medical research is rapidly evolving and the request for innovative solutions to global health challenges is more pressing than ever, the role of junior researchers cannot be overstated. Recognizing the pivotal contributions of these emerging scientists, Professors Vanelli and Vincenzo De Sanctis of *Acta Biomedica* have made a commendable and forward-thinking decision to establish a dedicated section in the journal specifically for the publication of research conducted by junior researchers worldwide. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the landscape of medical research and holds profound implications for the future of scientific inquiry and discovery.

The decision to spotlight junior researchers in a prestigious journal such as *Acta Biomedica* is both courageous and visionary. It underscores the journal's commitment to inclusivity and its recognition of the importance of diverse voices in scientific discourse. By providing a platform for early-career scientists, Professors Vanelli and De Sanctis are not only acknowledging the potential of these researchers but also actively nurturing their development. This move will undoubtedly encourage junior researchers to persevere in their endeavors, bolstering their confidence and reinforcing the value of their contributions to the medical community.

The establishment of this new section offers numerous benefits. Firstly, it provides junior researchers with a rare opportunity to gain visibility in a highly respected publication. For many, the prospect of having their work reviewed and published by a reputable journal is a significant milestone that can open doors to further academic and professional opportunities. The exposure gained through such a platform can facilitate collaborations, attract funding, and enhance the researchers' credibility within the scientific community.

Secondly, this initiative promotes a culture of mentorship and support. Senior researchers and established experts in the field are likely to take note of the innovative ideas and fresh perspectives presented by junior researchers. This can lead to mentorship opportunities, where experienced scientists guide and support the next generation, fostering a collaborative and nurturing research environment. Moreover, the rigorous peer-review process that accompanies publication in *Acta Biomedica* will provide junior researchers with valuable feedback, helping them refine their methodologies and improve the quality of their research.

Furthermore, the inclusion of junior researchers' work in *Acta Biomedica* can lead to the generation of new ideas and approaches in medical research. Fresh perspectives and novel insights are often the catalysts for breakthroughs, and by giving a voice to those at the beginning of their careers, the journal is likely to facilitate innovative and transformative research. This can accelerate progress in various medical fields, ultimately benefiting patients and advancing global health.

Professors Vanelli and De Sanctis's decision is also a testament to the evolving nature of academic publishing. In a world where the traditional barriers to publication can be daunting for early-career researchers, this initiative represents a progressive shift towards greater accessibility and democratization of knowledge. It aligns with the broader movement towards open science and the recognition that valuable research can come from any corner of the globe, regardless of the researcher's career stage.

In conclusion, the introduction of a dedicated section for junior researchers in *Acta Biomedica* is a laudable and impactful step. It not only supports the growth and development of early-career scientists but also enriches the scientific community by bringing fresh ideas and perspectives to the forefront. Professors Vanelli and De Sanctis have set a powerful example of leadership and foresight, and their decision will undoubtedly inspire a new generation of medical researchers to strive for excellence and innovation. The medical community eagerly anticipates the groundbreaking research that will emerge from this initiative, confident that it will pave the way for significant advancements in health and medicine.

Ashraf T. Soliman
Department of Pediatrics, Division of Endocrinology,
Hamad General Hospital, Doha, Qatar
E-mail: atsoliman56@gmail.com