

# NMCD is growing up: short thoughts on a teenager's life

G. Riccardi

Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Federico II University, Napoli

One year has elapsed since I was given the responsibility of the Editorial Office of NMCD. After founding and then directing this journal for eleven years, Mario Mancini decided to hand over the management to a younger colleague (1), since the difficulties of establishing a new scientific journal were over and the road up-hill was no longer as steep.

This year NMCD enters its teenage, in good health and with the enthusiastic support and care of all its family. The recent two new entries among the Associate Editors – Michel de Lorgeril and Josè Ordovas – have given new inputs to our editorial activity and have established new links with scientific contributors in Europe and the USA. Starting this year, we will have tighter links with two leading scientific societies in Italy – the Italian Society for the Study of Atherosclerosis (SISA), and the Italian Society of Human Nutrition (SINU); as a matter of fact, NMCD is now the official journal of SISA and has a special affiliation with SINU; this will not only enrich us with the scientific expertise of the members of these two societies, but will also bring over two thousand subscribers – thus hopefully adding to the currently growing number of original manuscripts submitted. We expect this larger readership to contribute to increase the citations of the articles published, thus further improving our impact factor (already steadily on the rise in the past three years, and reaching 1.123 in 2001). Positive trends have also taken place in terms of number of original manuscripts and publication time. In the last 12 months, the original papers submitted to NMCD have increased by 25%, while our rejection rate is stable around 45%. The geographic origin of our original manuscripts and invited articles is well distributed: 63% from European countries and 37% from the rest of the world (Italy and the USA, with 34 and 17% respectively of published paper, are the countries with the largest contributions). This is in line with our ambition to keep this journal as a crossroad between different cultures and disciplines.

The average publication time is now 7.5 months but it is below three months for manuscripts submitted as fast track publication – the new section providing a preferential lane to papers with particularly innovative results that deserve immediate attention from the readership.

The core scientific interest of NMCD is research on the

nutritional and metabolic aspects of cardiovascular diseases (almost 75% of the articles published). However, among the emerging issues, the journal is giving particular emphasis to two subjects which, in the opinion of the editors, deserve attention both for their novelty and their potential impact on knowledge and practice. The first is the relationship between genes and nutrition, to which we have dedicated two editorials (2, 3) and is becoming a key issue to understand how nutrition can be most effectively utilized in the prevention of cardiovascular diseases. The second issue is the prevention of diabetes and the metabolic syndrome, on which new data are being produced, showing why and how this problem – which has a very strong impact on health at the public level – can now be approached (4-6).

In conclusion, NMCD is no longer a child and, like a teenager, lives the present but looks to the future. This attitude will be necessarily translated in our editorial policy: to pay, as in the past, much attention to attracting good quality research by expediting as much as possible the manuscript handling process and offering large and qualified international readership. However, at the same time, we will be more than ever open to new ideas, with the ambition of becoming a forum for debates ready to dispute established dogmas as new data emerges.

## References

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