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AIMS AND SCOPE

The primary aim of *World Journal of Clinical Oncology* (WJCO, *World J Clin Oncol*) is to provide scholars and readers from various fields of oncology with a platform to publish high-quality basic and clinical research articles and communicate their research findings online.

WJCO mainly publishes articles reporting research results and findings obtained in the field of oncology and covering a wide range of topics including art of oncology, biology of neoplasia, breast cancer, cancer prevention and control, cancer-related complications, diagnosis in oncology, gastrointestinal cancer, genetic testing for cancer, gynecologic cancer, head and neck cancer, hematologic malignancy, lung cancer, melanoma, molecular oncology, neurooncology, palliative and supportive care, pediatric oncology, surgical oncology, translational oncology, and urologic oncology.

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New Year's greeting and overview of *World Journal of Clinical Oncology* in 2021

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Abstract

Although the whole world has been suffering under the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic, the *World Journal of Clinical Oncology (WJCO)* was able to productively direct our efforts in the field through 2020. This was only accomplished through the collective efforts and support of our Editorial Board members, peer reviewers, authors, readers and editorial office staff. In 2020, the *WJCO* published 12 issues encompassing 84 papers, a 115.4% increase over 2019 (39 papers). In December of 2020, we strategized a plan to solicit even more high-quality contributions for *WJCO* in 2021. So far, we have registered and accepted 188 manuscript titles, including 132 reviews and 56 original articles. In the New Year, we will work with our internal and external colleagues who care about and support the development of *WJCO* with the express aim of improving the academic rank of *WJCO* in the field of oncology. Ultimately, our goal is to merit and gain inclusion in the Science Citation Index Expanded, with the first impact factor being awarded as soon as possible.

Key Words: *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*; Publication; Editorial board; Oncology

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Core Tip: This editorial introduces the development of *World Journal of Clinical Oncology (WJCO)* in 2020. We also discuss some of the limitations currently facing the journal and propose solutions that can positively influence the academic rank of *WJCO*. Finally, we thank all those who have contributed to the development of *WJCO* and look forward to continuing our collective efforts to strengthen the field of clinical

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INTRODUCTION

The *World Journal of Clinical Oncology* (*WJCO*, *World J Clin Oncol*) was launched in 2010 as a high-quality, monthly, online, open-access, single-blind, peer-reviewed journal published by the Baishideng Publishing Group^[1]. Since then, the *WJCO* has been abstracted and indexed in PubMed, PubMed Central^[2], and Emerging Sources Citation Index (Web of Science). This journal mainly publishes basic or clinical research in the field of oncology, and the types of articles published in *WJCO* include Review, Original Article, Case Report, *etc.*^[1].

ACHIEVEMENTS OF *WJCO* IN 2020

As editors of the *WJCO*, it is our great pleasure to take this opportunity to wish all of our authors, readers, Editorial Board members, independent expert referees, and staff of the editorial office a Very Happy New Year. On behalf of the Editorial Team, we would like to express our gratitude to all authors who have contributed their valuable manuscripts, to the independent referees, and to our readers for their continuous support, dedication, and encouragement. The collective team effort by our Editorial Board members and Editorial Office staff allowed the *WJCO* to advance further in 2020.

Published articles in 2020

The *WJCO* published 12 issues in 2020, encompassing 84 articles. These articles included 29 unsolicited manuscripts (34.5%, 29/84) and 55 invited manuscripts (65.5%, 55/84). Of these manuscripts, there were 22 original articles (26.2%, 22/84), 40 review articles (47.6%, 40/84), 5 editorials (6.0%, 5/84), 16 case reports (19.0%, 16/84), and 1 'other' type (1.2%, 1/84) (Figure 1). Overall, the number of publications of *WJCO* in 2020 represented a remarkable increase over the previous year (115.4%, 39 more articles).

Metrics for manuscripts submitted and published in 2020

In 2020, the *WJCO* received a total of 125 manuscript submissions for consideration of publication after peer review. Among them, 107 received a first decision by the Science Editor Development Department with 18 (14.4%, 18/125) being rejected and 53 (45.2%, 53/125) ultimately being published online by the Production Department. Those 53 articles included 31 invited manuscripts (58.5%, 31/53) and 22 unsolicited manuscripts (41.5%, 22/53). Among them were 12 original articles (22.6%, 12/53), 25 reviews (47.2%, 25/53), 4 editorials (7.5%, 4/53), 11 case reports (20.7%, 11/53), and 1 'other' type article (1.9%, 1/53). The authors hailed from 22 countries and regions mostly from the United States (24.5%, 13/53), Spain (15.1%, 8/53), and China, Japan, and Italy (5.7%, 3/53); various other countries or regions accounted for the remaining 23 articles (43.4%, 23/53) (Figure 2).

Peer review of manuscripts

In 2020, the *WJCO* invited a total of 4379 peer reviewers and Editorial Board members to review manuscripts. These invitations garnered 645 (14.7%, 645/4379) acceptances to perform the peer review, 697 (15.9%, 697/4379) declinations to perform the peer review, and 2648 (60.5%, 2648/4379) nonresponses. Among the 645 reviewers who accepted the invitation, 234 (36.3%, 234/645) submitted peer review reports, 398 (61.7%, 425/645) failed to submit peer review reports, and 13 (2.0%, 13/645) have not yet submitted the peer review report.



Figure 1 Column type distribution of manuscripts published in *World Journal of Clinical Oncology* in 2020.

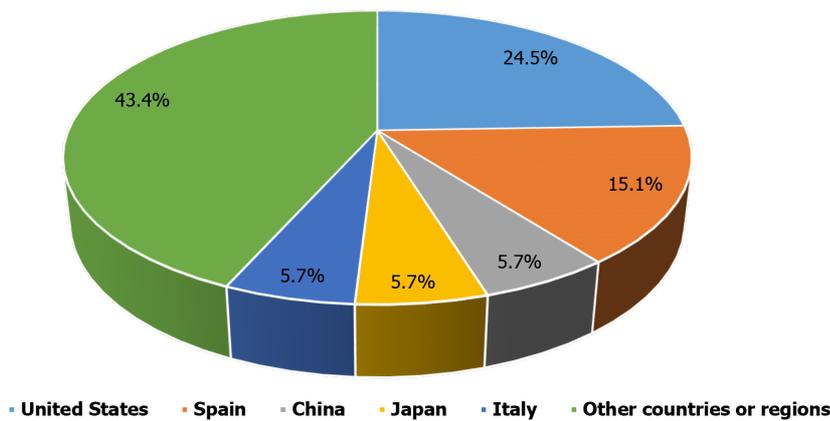


Figure 2 Distribution of authors' countries for the manuscripts published in *World Journal of Clinical Oncology* in 2020.

Citation

As of January 10, 2021, according to data from the Web of Science, the *WJCO* published 64 articles in 2018 (25) and 2019 (39) from authors in 27 countries or regions. These 64 published articles included 55 classified as “article” or “review” and were cited 166 times in 2020.

Editorial Board members

In 2020, the Editorial Board of *WJCO* was composed of 73 members from 23 countries and regions^[3], including 12 (16.4%) from China, 12 (16.4%) from the United States, 9 (12.3%) from Italy, 4 (5.5%) from Greece, 4 (5.5%) from India, and 32 (43.8%) from various other countries and regions (Figure 3). Considering the small number of Editorial Board members and the uneven distribution of regions and disciplines, the Editorial Office will invite more experts from the oncology field to join the *WJCO* Editorial Board in 2021.

Soliciting contributions

By the end of 2020, the Editorial Office of *WJCO* had formulated a plan for soliciting contributions from authors in 2021. We have now invited the Editorial Board members and high-level scientists in the field of oncology to solicit contributions for reviews and original articles. So far, 188 invited manuscript titles have been registered by authors and accepted for upcoming submission and review of the full papers; these have included proposals for 132 review articles and 56 original articles. The solicitation of original articles is ongoing.

LIMITATIONS AND SOLUTIONS

Although the *WJCO* achieved phased success in 2020, it has not yet reached our pinnacle goals. At present, the *WJCO* still faces some challenges that need to be

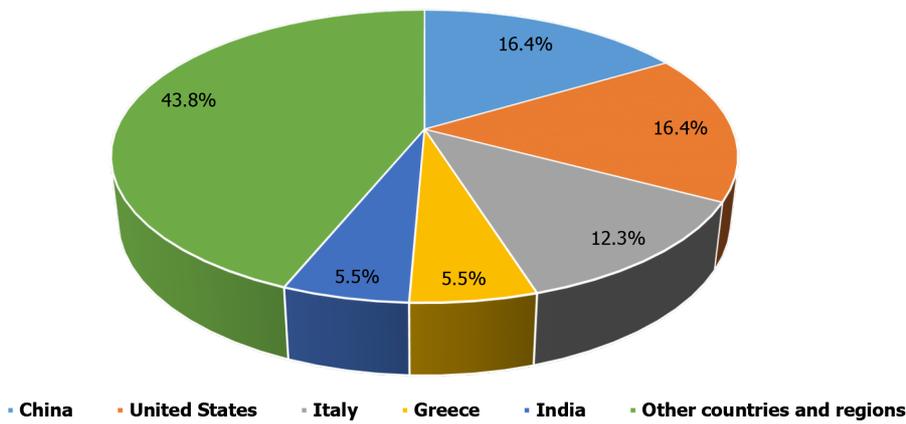


Figure 3 Country distribution of Editorial Board members of the *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

overcome: (1) The sources of manuscripts are lacking, especially for high-quality original and review manuscripts; (2) There are not enough experts to participate in peer review for each manuscript, leading to a low rate of final submission of peer-review reports; and (3) Due to the insufficient number of Editorial Board members and the uneven distribution of regions and disciplines, some manuscripts progress through the review process too slowly. In 2021, it is imperative to solve these problems.

First, we need to establish a connection with high-level oncology experts and promote their submissions of high-quality original or review articles. Second, the number of Editorial Board members must be increased with an eye towards balancing the distribution of experts in different areas and disciplines. Third, we need to further optimize the entire review-to-publication process with the aims of shortening the time of peer review and providing high-quality and efficient peer-review reports. Finally, we need to continue our latest company-wide strategy of sending the journal's latest published articles to target readers *via* email; this is an effective activity by which we will increase the exposure rate and citation rate of these articles, thereby expanding the academic influence of our authors.

CONCLUSION

With the continued efforts and support of all internal and external contributors to the WJCO, we expect to make greater strides forward in 2021. For our part, we commit to working diligently alongside all of you to raise the academic rank of WJCO in 2021 and merit inclusion in the Science Citation Index Expanded as soon as possible. We appreciate that the achievement of these goals is reliant upon the continuous support and submissions from authors worldwide and the dedicated efforts and expertise by our invited reviewers, many who also serve on our Editorial Board. We are also open to any suggestions that could improve the WJCO's operation and publication. Please feel free to contact us at editorialoffice@wjgnet.com with any questions on your submission or suggestions.

Once again, on behalf of the WJCO's Editorial Office, we wish you and your families the best for the New Year.

REFERENCES

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- 2 **PubMed Central.** *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/1494/>
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