

Acta Pharmaceutica Growing for 68 years now: still innovative and leading

Any in the series of six Croatian congresses on pharmacy held so far, has been an fruitful event giving opportunity, not only to the pharmacists, but to all health professionals, from Croatia and abroad, for useful discussions and exchange of ideas. It is also a place of presenting the newest achievements from public health issues to research and scientific excellence, and useful exchange of experiences between colleagues, professionals and scientists. In that sense, we have presented development and new achievements of *Acta Pharmaceutica* (AP), the only scientific journal in pharmacy in Croatia, which has been published by Croatian Pharmaceutical Society from the very beginning in 1951. A few reports of the kind have been presented in *Farmaceutski glasnik* during last 10 years, the current one updating the most relevant information on the position of AP today, in the times of violent worldwide competition.

Acta Pharmaceutica is the only Croatian scientific journal in pharmacy, covering different fields of medical and health sciences. This is a peer-reviewed journal of long and continuing tradition lasting for 68 years now, with fully open access (OA) from 2003.

The scope of AP includes a variety of biomedical themes, from medicinal chemistry, biopharmacy, pharmaceutical technology and formulation studies, toxicology, cell biology and genetics, pharmacognosy, biochemistry, medicine including diagnostics and therapy, analytics of drugs, to social pharmacy, *etc.* All articles are submitted to scrutinized evaluation and ethical judgement.

AP is a modern journal, all in English, recognized worldwide and therefore hosting a very international authorship. AP is indexed in numerous world top international bibliographic bases, like Clarivate Analytics's Web of Science® Core Collection (SCI-Expanded, JCR/Science Edition, *etc.*), EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, MEDLINE/PubMed, Scopus/SCImago, and others.

The detailed information on the high level of the journal are available at the following websites:

<http://acta.pharmaceutica.farmaceut.org/>
<https://hrcak.srce.hr/acta-pharmaceutica>
<https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/acph/acph-overview.xml>

The basic data about the Journal are given in its ID card:

<i>Acta Pharmaceutica</i>	
Scientific journal with full open access, „early-bird“ platform	
Discipline:	medical and health sciences/biomedicine/pharmaceutical sciences
Bibliographic data:	UDC 615, coden: ACPHEE, ISSN: 1330-0075, eISSN: 1846-9558
History:	2007 – full OA, pdf, DOI 2003 – full OA, pdf 1998 – open access: abstract 1992 – <i>Acta Pharmaceutica</i> (1951–1991 <i>Acta Pharmaceutica Jugoslavica</i>)
Publisher/owner:	Croatian Pharmaceutical Society
Patronage:	Croatian Pharmaceutical Society and Slovenian Pharmaceutical Society
Scientific fields:	medicinal chemistry, biopharmacy, toxicology, pharmaceutical technology, cell biology, genetics, pharmacognosy, medicine, social pharmacy, pharmacovigilance, analytics of drugs, history of pharmacy
Articles types:	original research papers, short communications, preliminary communications, reviews, book reviews
Editorial/publishing policy:	peer review: 2–3 independent, anonymous, international reviews, high ethical standards
Publishing frequency:	4 issues per volume/year
Editors:	Svjetlana Luterotti (Editor-in-Chief), Branka Zorc (technical editor)
Section Editors:	Karmela Barišić, Mojca Kerec Kos, Željka Vanić
Publisher executive:	Maja Jakševac Mikša
International advisory board:	H. Junginger (Germany), R. Kaliszan (Poland), Z. I. Khan (Australia), P. Mátyus (Hungary), S. Srčić (Slovenia), B. Perissutti (Italy)
Editorial board:	K. Barišić (Zagreb), J. Filipović-Grčić (Zagreb), D. Kikelj (Ljubljana), Mojca Kerec Kos (Ljubljana), J. Lovrić (Zagreb), S. Luterotti (Zagreb), Ž. Maleš (Zagreb), J. Marc (Ljubljana), A. Mrhar (Ljubljana), B. Zorc (Zagreb), Ž. Vanić (Zagreb)
The most relevant services indexing the Journal:	
Web of Science® Core Collection (SCI-Expanded, JCR/Science Edition, BIOSIS Previews), SCOPUS, SCImago (SJR), MEDLINE/PubMed, CAS, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, ProQuest, Publons, PubsHub, DOAJ, EBSCO, Referativnyi Zhurnal	
Rank (2018):	
SCImago Journal&Country Rank (Pharmaceutical Science): Q2	
WoS JCR (Clarivate Analytics): JIF 1.405, 5-year JIF 1.701	
SCImago Journal Rank (SJR): 0.314	
H index: 49	
CiteScore: 1.47	
Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP): 0.637	

The detailed list of services indexing *Acta Pharmaceutica* in 2018 is given below:

Bibliographic bases indexing *Acta Pharmaceutica* in 2018

Baidu Scholar
CABI (preko 50 subsections)
Case
Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) – Caplus
Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) – SciFinder
CNKI Scholar (China National Knowledge Infrastructure)
CNPIEC – cnpLINKer
Derwent Drug File
Dimensions
DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)
EBSCO (relevant databases)
EBSCO Discovery Service
Embase
Genamics JournalSeek
Google Scholar
IBIDS (National Institutes of Health)
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
J-Gate
Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition
JournalGuide
JournalTOCs
KESLI-NDSL (Korean National Discovery for Science Leaders)
Medline
Meta
Microsoft Academic
Naviga (Softweco)
Primo Central (ExLibris)
ProQuest (relevant databases)
Publons
PubMed
PubsHub
QOAM (Quality Open Access Market)
ReadCube
Reaxys
Referativnyi Zhurnal (VINITI)
SCImago (SJR)
SCOPUS
Sherpa/RoMEO
Summon (Serials Solutions/ProQuest)
TDNet, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory/ulrichsweb
WanFang Data
Web of Science – Biological Abstracts
Web of Science – BIOSIS Previews
Web of Science – Science Citation Index Expanded
WorldCat (OCLC)

Fig. 1 shows the stable increasing trend of CA JIF (Clarivate Analytics Journal Impact Factor), still the most important metric indicator; it confirms stable quality and international recognizability of *Acta Pharmaceutica*.

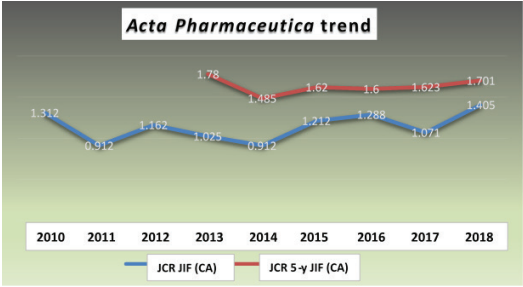


Fig. 1. CA JIF – Clarivate Analytics Journal Impact Factor; CA 5-y JIF – Clarivate Analytics 5-year Journal Impact Factor, for the journal *Acta Pharmaceutica* (JCR – Journal Citation Reports).

The graphical presentations which follow display the achievements in the period 1992–2019. The information for 2019 are the estimates based upon the data collected till this issue appearance.

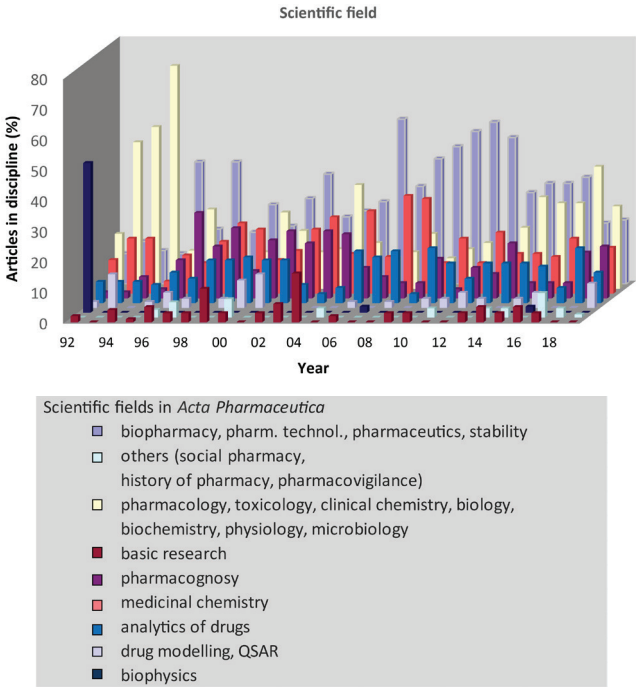


Fig. 2. Scientific fields in *Acta Pharmaceutica*.

So, Fig. 2 illustrates and measures the portion of various research fields in the Journal, Fig. 3 shows the most relevant bibliographic databases indexing AP, Fig. 4 quantifies the the selection of papers submitted to AP and Figs. 5 and 6 point to the share of domestic/foreign authors/referees.

Fig. 3 gives the graphical information on the most respectable bibliographic services indexing AP, indicating the respective time interval. This presentation confirms the coverage of AP by lots of databases which assures visibility, recognizability and competitiveness of AP in the international community.

Fig. 4 makes clear that criteria and standards are highly set considering acceptance of papers for publication in our Journal. Independent and objective criticisms obtained by reviewers from around the world result in high rejection rate; the acceptance rate is only 20–30 %.

In order to maintain high and objective criteria when selection of papers is concerned numerous international referees, recognized experts in the field, are asked for their kind service. The portion of authors and reviewers, from Croatia and abroad, out of total number, is presented by Figs. 5 and 6, resp.

In the period 1992–2019 a tremendous increase in the number of submissions to our Journal has occurred. For example, in 2013 and 2014 we received as much as 107 and 123 manuscripts, resp.; this year it is 300! Apparently, the number of papers reaching our office has been augmented for 300 % now and a trend of further rise is certain. Recently, 3,800th

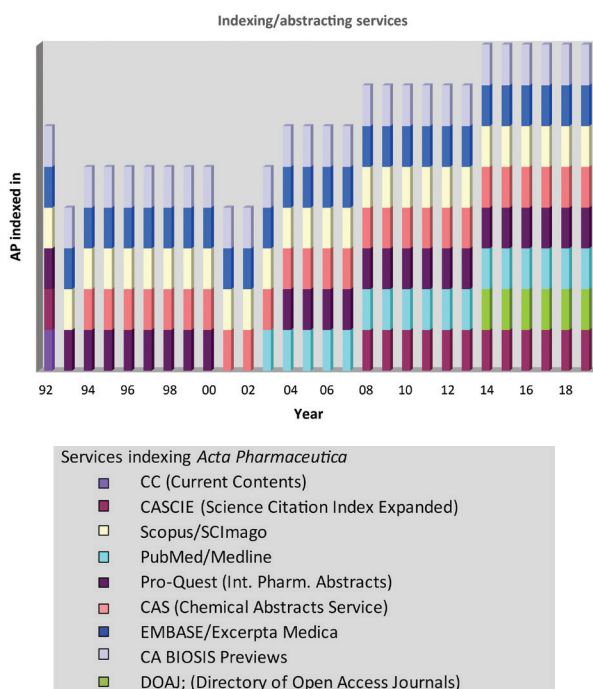


Fig. 3. Some of the services indexing *Acta Pharmaceutica*.

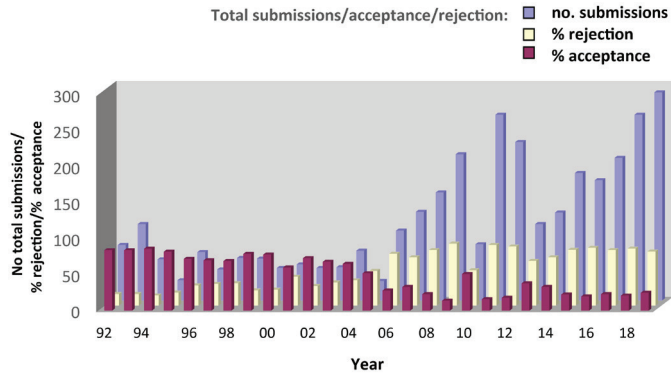


Fig. 4. Total submissions to *Acta Pharmaceutica* and the portion of rejection/acceptance.

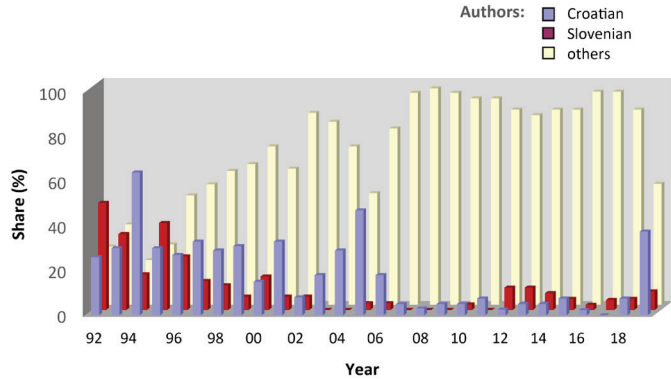


Fig 5. Authors in *Acta Pharmaceutica*.

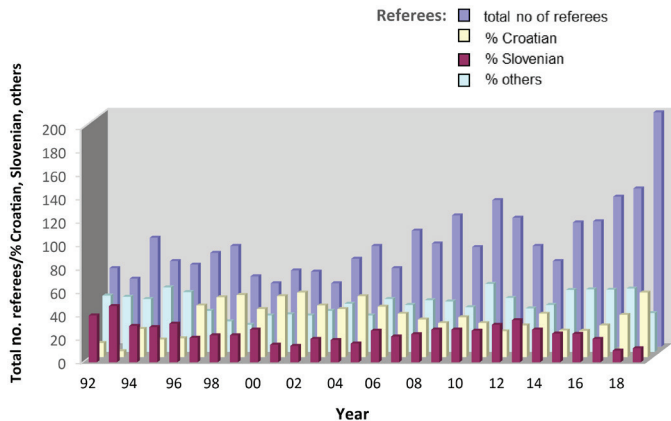


Fig. 6. Reviewers in *Acta Pharmaceutica*.

manuscript has reached the office! All this is evident from Fig. 4 which also points to the fact that the editorial policy based on strict scientific criteria resulted in high rejection rate which has risen to 70–80 % in the last few years. Should not be ignored that dominant number of referees are the scientists from abroad (Fig. 6). Positive trends of growth for AP are seen from the following tabular presentation.

Expected improvement of quality, visibility and volume of <i>Acta Pharmaceutica</i>						
Year	Realized				Expected	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ^a	2020
Total no. submissions	177	167	200	260	300	350 ^e
			%			
Europe ^b	24	20	20	23	24	> 30
Middle East	28	27	28	25	30	
Asia ^c	38	44	42	44	38	
America ^d	5	7	7	5	5	
Africa	5	3	3	3	3	
Accepted for publication			%			
Europe ^b	10	7	7	9	15	> 20
Middle East	7	5	5	4	3	
Asia ^c	5	6	8	4	2	
America ^d	2	1	1	1	1	
Africa	2	0	2	1	0	
Total rejected (%)	71	75	77	81	79	> 80
Possible increase of the Journal volume						≥ 20

^a Estimate based on the data January-July 2019.

^b Including Turkey, Russia, Ukraine.

^c Far East, including former states of USSR.

^d North and South America, including Australia and New Zealand.

^e $R = 0.981$.

The foregoing survey indicates the huge number of submissions being authored worldwide; this confirms that AP has gained full international recognition and reputation. In the last few years AP has been indexed in several new databases, and the number of visits through Sciendo web platform has exceeded 40,000 in 2018, speaking on tremendous growth in our readership. Nevertheless, the everlasting task of the editorial staff is to further improve the Journal quality and volume.

Our claims that this aged, 68-year old, lady who is successfully fighting under the circumstances of cruel international rivalry, has gained recognizable international position,

although keeping the continuity of issuing, preserving its high and objective scientific and ethical standards; all this justify to say *Acta Pharmaceutica* is a prestigious journal. AP managed to maintain quality and credibility throughout decades, and is still actual and innovative, and ready for new challenges and times to come.

We are inclined to believe that this overview clearly illustrates the steady growth of *Acta Pharmaceutica* during last 27 years. Our intention is also to encourage and motivate researchers from any biomedical field to submit their scientific contributions to this particular Journal. We are very happy that this Editorial is the part of the Special Congress Issue devoted to the 6th Croatian Congress on Pharmacy. The more so, our gratitude goes to all colleagues who made every efforts in editing and publishing the Journal and this issue in particular, and we are eager to continue this successful cooperation.

SVJETLANA LUTEROTTI
BRANKA ZORC
MAJA JAKŠEVAC MIKŠA

University of Zagreb
Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry
Zagreb, Croatia

Croatian Pharmaceutical Society
Zagreb, Croatia