



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: *Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)*

## Editorial

- Educational Perspective of The *Balkan Medical Journal*  
*Mustafa İnan; Turkey*

## Original Articles

- HIV/HBV Co-infection  
*Arbune and Georgescu; Romania*
- A Study of Alzheimer's Disease Genetics  
*Gökdoğan Edgünlü et al.; Turkey*
- Melatonin in Women with SLE  
*Robeva et al.; Bulgaria*
- The Management of Pain in Multiple Rib Fractures  
*Solak et al.; Turkey*
- Bloodstream Infections among Transplant Recipients  
*Yeşilkaya et al.; Turkey*
- Telomerase Activity in Gynaecology  
*Gül et al.; Turkey*
- Mad Honey Poisoning  
*Eroğlu et al.; Turkey*
- Risks of Metabolic Syndrome in Students  
*Öğüş et al.; Turkey*
- *H. pylori* Colonization and Frequency of Adenotonsillitis  
*Güçlü et al.; Turkey*
- Maxillary Sinus Cysts in Organ Recipients  
*Aydın et al.; Turkey*
- Effects of Lipoic Acid on Lung Injury  
*Gülcü Bulmuş et al.; Turkey*

## Statement

- Statement From The International Scientific Summer School Collaboration Group  
*ISSS Collaboration Group*





# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)

## Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Cem UZUN, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

## Section Editors

### Basic Sciences

Prof. Nurettin AYDOĞDU, PhD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Gheorghe BENGA, MD, PhD, Dhc (MULT.),  
Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Prof. Nermin ŞAKRU, MD, PhD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

### Clinical Sciences

Prof. Özer ARICAN, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Okan ÇALIYURT, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Zafer KOÇAK, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Gülsüm Emel PAMUK, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Hakan TUNA, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

### Surgical Sciences

Assoc. Prof. Cem ÇOPUROĞLU, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Assoc. Prof. Mustafa İNAN, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Cumhur KILINÇER, MD, PhD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Ranko MLADINA, MD, PhD,  
University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Prof. Cenk SAYIN, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Assoc. Prof. M. Alparslan TURAN, MD,  
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland OH, USA

### Biostatistics

Assoc. Prof. Necdet SÜT, PhD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

## Associate Editors

Assoc. Prof. Mustafa ÇIKIRIKÇIOĞLU, MD, PhD, FETCS,  
Montreal Heart Institute, Quebec, Canada

Prof. Vasilis DANIELIDIS, MD, PhD,  
Democritus University of Thrace, Alexandroupolis, Greece

Prof. Meletios A. DIMOPOULOS, MD, PhD,  
University of Athens, Athens, Greece

Prof. Dragoslava DJERIC, MD, PhD,  
University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Assoc. Prof. Ridvan DURAN, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Assoc. Prof. Hakan ERBAŞ, PhD, MSc,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Marco FIORE, PhD,  
Institute of Cellular Biology and Neurobiology, CNR, Rome, Italy

Prof. Osman Nuri HATİPOĞLU, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Marko HAWLINA, MD, PhD,  
University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Prof. Irena HOCEVAR-BOLTEZAR, MD, PhD,  
University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Assoc. Prof. Cem İBİŞ, MD,  
İstanbul University, İstanbul, Turkey

Prof. Darko KASTELAN, MD, PhD,  
University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Assist. Prof. Shima MEHRABIAN, MD, PhD,  
University Hospital Alexandrovska, Sofia, Bulgaria

Prof. Pavle MIKLIC, MD,  
University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Prof. Tatjana PEROS-GOLUBICIC, MD, PhD,  
University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Prof. Nadan RUSTEMOVIC, MD, PhD,  
University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Assoc. Prof. Atakan SEZER, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Milan STANKOVIC, MD, PhD,  
University of Nis, Nis, Serbia

Prof. Nermin TUNÇBİLEK, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Assoc. Prof. Ufuk USTA, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Irena VELCHEVA, MD, PhD,  
Medical University, Sofia, Bulgaria

Prof. Stanislav YANEV, MD, PhD,  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria

Prof. Kenan YALTA, MD,  
Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

Prof. Mustafa YILDIZ, MD, PhD,  
İstanbul University, İstanbul, Turkey



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: *Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)*

## Editorial Advisory Board

Prof. Eyüp Sabri AKARSU, MD,  
Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey

Prof. Serhan ALKAN, MD,  
Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Prof. Christian APFEL, MD, PhD,  
University of California San Francisco, San Francisco,  
CA, USA

Prof. Stavros J. BALOYANNIS, MD, PhD,  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

Prof. Mehmet BAYKARA, MD,  
Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey

Prof. Hans-Juergen BIERSECK, MD, PhD,  
University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany

Prof. George N. CHALDAKOV, MD, PhD,  
Medical University of Varna, Varna, Bulgaria

Prof. Anthony H. DICKENSON, MD, PhD,  
University College London, London, UK

Prof. Mustafa B.A. DJAMGOZ, BSc, PhD, ARCS,  
FSMC, FRSM,  
Imperial College London, London, UK

Prof. Ten FEIZI, MD, FmedSci,  
Imperial College London, London, UK

Prof. Dan M. FLISS, MD, PhD,  
Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel

Assoc. Prof. Ahmet GÜRAKAR, MD,  
John Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA

Prof. Mehmet Yaşar İŞÇAN, MD,  
İstanbul University, İstanbul, Turkey

Prof. Marc H. JANSEN, MD, PhD,  
HELIOS Hospital Berlin-Zehlendorf, Berlin, Germany

Prof. Afksendiyos KALANGOS, MD, PhD,  
University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Prof. Todor KANTARDJIEV, MD, PhD,  
National Centre Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Bulgaria

Prof. Fahrettin KELEŞTİMUR, MD,  
Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey

Prof. Ana MARUSIC, MD, PhD,  
University of Split, Split, Croatia

Prof. Eugene N. MYERS, MD, FACS, FRCS Edin (Hon),  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Prof. Jean-Marc NABHOLTZ, MD, PhD,  
Jean Perrin Comprehensive Cancer Centre of Auvergne, C-F, France

Prof. Keiji OGUMA, MD, PhD,  
Okayama University, Okayama, Japan

Prof. Çetin ÖNSEL, MD,  
İstanbul University, İstanbul, Turkey

Prof. Michael D. SUSSMAN, MD,  
Shriners Hospital for Children, Portland, OR, USA

Prof. Bülent SÜMERKAN, MD,  
Acıbadem Hospital, Kayseri, Turkey

Prof. Mirko TOS, MD, PhD,  
University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Prof. Juan A. TOVAR, MD,  
La Paz University Hospital, Madrid, Spain

Prof. Mark D. WALTERS, MD, PhD,  
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, USA

Prof. Hasan YAZICI, MD, PhD,  
İstanbul University, İstanbul, Turkey

Prof. M. İbrahim ZİYAL, MD, PhD,  
Marmara University, İstanbul, Turkey

The Balkan Medical Journal and/or its editors are members of ICMJE, WAME, EASE, and CSE. The Balkan Medical Journal is indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded, Journal Citation Reports, EMBASE, Scopus, CINAHL, EBSCO, DOAJ, Chemical Abstracts, Global Health, CAB Abstracts, Index Copernicus and TÜBİTAK/ULAKBİM Turkish Medical Database.

Owner: *Trakya University Faculty of Medicine*

Checking the consistency of accepted manuscripts with the journal's standards, full-text editing and typesetting of the manuscripts and publication preparation and print processes of the journal are all carried out by AVES.



Publisher  
İbrahim KARA

Publication Coordinators  
Sevilay ARDIÇ NAYİR  
Gökhan ÇİMEN  
Ali ŞAHİN

Project Assistant  
Sinan Gökbörü BÜNCÜ

Graphics Department  
Ünal ÖZER  
Neslihan YAMAN  
Merve KURT

Contact  
Büyükdere Cad. 105/9 34394,  
Mecidiyeköy, Şişli, İstanbul, Turkey  
Phone: +90 212 217 17 00  
Fax: +90 212 217 22 92  
E-mail: info@avesyayincilik.com

Publication Type: *Local Periodical*  
Date of Print: *August 2013*  
Printed at: *ADA Ofset Matbaacılık*  
Tic. Ltd. Şti., Litros Yolu  
2. Matbaacılar S. E Blok  
No: (ZE2) 1. Kat Topkapı, İstanbul, Turkey  
Phone: +90 212 567 12 42



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: *Balkan Med J* (Formerly *Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi*)

## EDITORIAL POLICY

### AIMS AND SCOPE

*The Balkan Medical Journal* is a peer-reviewed open-access international journal that publishes clinical and experimental trials, interesting case reports, invited reviews, letters to the Editor including reports on publication and research ethics, meeting news and bulletin, clinical news and abstracts of interesting research conducted in all fields of medicine. *The journal* is the official scientific publication of the Trakya University Faculty of Medicine and is printed four times a year, in March, June, September, and December. The language of *the journal* is English.

*The journal* is based on independent and unbiased double-blinded peer-reviewed principles. Only unpublished papers that are not under review for publication elsewhere can be submitted. The authors are responsible for the scientific content of the material to be published. *The Balkan Medical Journal* reserves the right to request any research materials on which the paper is based.

*The Balkan Medical Journal* encourages and enables academicians, researchers, specialists and primary care physicians of Balkan countries to publish their valuable research in all branches of medicine. The primary aim of *the journal* is to publish original articles with high scientific and ethical quality and serve as a good example of medical publications in the Balkans.

The Editorial Board of *the Balkan Medical Journal* and the Publisher adheres to the principles of the International Council of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), the Council of Science Editors (CSE), the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the US National Library of Medicine (NLM), the US Office of Research Integrity (ORI), the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), and the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors (ISMTE).

*The Balkan Medical Journal* is indexed in CAB Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts, CINAHL, DOAJ, EBSCO, EMBASE, Global Health, Index Copernicus, Journal Citation Reports, Science Citation Index Expanded (Web of Science) and Scopus databases. Printed copies of *the journal* are distributed to over 150 university libraries in 14 Balkan countries. All articles are also available in PDF format on our website ([www.balkanmedicaljournal.org](http://www.balkanmedicaljournal.org)) and can be downloaded free of charge.

### MISSION

*The Balkan Medical Journal's* mission is to distribute and expand medical data mainly to Balkan countries as well as build a supportive and vibrant community of scholars to connect and explore ideas by publishing articles related to all fields of medicine. In addition to the educational material and links at *the journal's* webpage, *the Balkan Medical Journal* Editorial Board is also willing to organize educational programs in the subjects of medical writing and scientific ethics.

*The Balkan Medical Journal* believes that quality publication will lead to the progress of medical sciences and healthcare in Balkan countries as well as worldwide.

### EDITORIAL PROCESS AND PEER REVIEW

All manuscripts submitted for publication are strictly reviewed for their originality, methodology, importance, quality, ethical nature and suitability for the journal. *The Balkan Medical Journal* uses a well-constructed scheme for the evaluation process. The editor-in-chief has full authority over the editorial and scientific content of the *Balkan Medical Journal* and the timing of publication of the content.

The whole editorial and peer review process can be divided into 14 successive steps:

1. Technical review by the editorial secretary
2. Review by the Editor-in-Chief: [reject or further evaluation]
3. Review by the Section Editor and/or Editorial Consultant



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)

4. Evaluation at the weekly Editorial Board Meeting [reject or further evaluation]
5. Review by two or more external reviewers
6. Review by a Biostatistician
7. Similarity check
8. Evaluation by the Section Editor
9. Evaluation at the weekly Editorial Board Meeting [reject or accept]
10. Copy editing
11. Similarity recheck
12. Galley proof preparation
13. Assignment of DOI number
14. Publication

The administration step of the online submission system's workflow can either be used for technical revision request (step 1) or rejection based on the decision of the Editorial Board (steps 2-4).

Technical reviews are typically processed one week after submission. From stage 2-5, the evaluation usually takes 1 to 3 weeks. From stage 5-10, the overall evaluation takes 2 to 10 weeks. Starting February 2013, the publication process after submission may take 2 to 6 months. However, all accepted papers are published online as *Ahead of Print* as soon as DOI numbers are provided.

Very few manuscripts are rejected at the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage. About one-third of manuscripts are accepted for further evaluation at the 4<sup>th</sup> stage. The remaining manuscripts may be accepted at the 9<sup>th</sup> stage.

Overall, the acceptance rate of the *Balkan Medical Journal* is between 10% and 15%, and the median response time for all submissions is 3 weeks (2 weeks for rejected papers, and for accepted papers, 5 weeks for the first revision request by the external reviewers). The median overall response time for accepted papers is 13 weeks because the editors and reviewers of the *Balkan Medical Journal* usually need to assist authors to improve their papers through several revisions to increase the quality of the articles published in the journal.

## ETHICS

The *Balkan Medical Journal* is committed to the highest standards of research and publication ethics. All submitted manuscripts are screened with plagiarism software (iThenticate) to detect instances of overlapping and similar text at least two times during the evaluation process. The *Balkan Medical Journal* does not allow any form of plagiarism. The editors will act in accordance with the relevant international rules of publication and research ethics (COPE guidelines, WAME resources and ORI) if any ethical misconduct is suspected.

In accordance with the journal's policy, an approval of research protocols by an ethics committee in accordance with international agreements ("Helsinki Declaration" and "Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals") is required for all experimental, clinical and drug trial studies. For articles concerning experimental research on humans, a statement should be included that shows *informed consent* of patients and volunteers was obtained following a detailed explanation of the procedures that they may undergo. The journal requests a copy of the *Ethics Committee Approval* received from the relevant authority. *Informed consent* must also be obtained for case reports. More details on the ethical principles of the journal may be found at the "Instructions to Authors" and the "Instructions to Reviewers" pages.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The *Balkan Medical Journal* requires that each member of the editorial board must disclose to the editor-in-chief any conflict of interest related to family, personal, financial, political or religious issues. If the associate editors believe that it is not appropriate to be an editor for a given manuscript, the editor should



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)

resign from the assignment. *The Balkan Medical Journal* editor review process is in accordance with the Good Editorial Practice set by international editorial organizations (i.e. WAME, COPE). *The Balkan Medical Journal* request that all members of the editorial board (editor-in-chief and associate editors) agree not to submit their own manuscripts to *the journal*, as it is considered a conflict of interest (since 2012).

Please refer to the "conflict of interest statement and copyright form" section at the "Instructions to Authors" page for the conflict of interest declaration for authors. For a conflict of interest statement for reviewers, please refer to the "Instructions to Reviewers" page.

#### Subscriptions/Permissions and Reprints/Advertisements

Free full-text articles can be accessed from the following link: [www.balkanmedicaljournal.org](http://www.balkanmedicaljournal.org); with no charge. Applications for subscriptions, permissions, reprints and advertisements should be made to the

#### Editorial Office

Editorial Secretary: İlkiz YÜKSEL

Address: Balkan Medical Journal, Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi, 22030 Edirne, Turkey

Phone: +90 284 235 76 41/1332

Fax: +90 284 235 76 52

E-mail: [info@balkanmedicaljournal.org](mailto:info@balkanmedicaljournal.org)

#### Publisher

AVES - İbrahim KARA

Address: Kızılelma cad. 5/3 34096 Fındıkzade-Istanbul

Phone: +90 212 589 00 53

Fax: +90 212 589 00 94

E-mail: [info@avesyayincilik.com](mailto:info@avesyayincilik.com)

#### Material Disclaimer

All opinions and reports within the articles that are published in the Balkan Medical Journal are the personal opinions of the authors. The Editors, the publisher and the owner of the Balkan Medical Journal do not accept any responsibility for these articles.

*The journal is printed on acid-free paper.*





# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

v.2.1 (updated March 2013. Please check the Journal's website for the latest version)

### MANUSCRIPT FORMATTING

Manuscript format must be in accordance with the *ICMJE Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication* available at <http://www.icmje.org>. Papers that do not comply with the format of the *Journal* will be returned to the author for correction without further review. Therefore, to avoid loss of time and work, authors must carefully review the submission rules.

#### General Format

The manuscript should be typed in a Microsoft Word™ file, single-column format, double-spaced with 2.5 cm margins on each side, and 11-point type in Times New Roman font. To facilitate the reviewing process, the lines of the text should be continuously numbered (at the left side).

All abbreviations in the text must be defined the first time they are used, and the abbreviations should be displayed in parentheses after the definition. Abbreviations should be limited to those defined in the *AMA Manual of Style*, current edition. Authors should avoid abbreviations in the title and abstract and limit their use in the text.

Measurements should be reported using the metric system according to the International System of Units (SI). Consult the *SI Unit Conversion Guide*, New England Journal of Medicine Books, 1992. An extensive list of conversion factors can be found at [http://www.unc.edu/~rowlett/units/scales/clinical\\_data.html](http://www.unc.edu/~rowlett/units/scales/clinical_data.html). For more detail, see [http://www.amamanualofstyle.com/oso/public/jama/si\\_conversion\\_table.html](http://www.amamanualofstyle.com/oso/public/jama/si_conversion_table.html).

#### Article Type

Identification of article type is the first step of manuscript submission because article type dictates the guidelines that should be used (see below, *Using Guidelines*), including formatting and word limits of the manuscript. The main categories of article type are outlined below:

- **Original Article:** Original contributions are manuscripts containing substantial novel research. These articles can include randomized controlled trials, an observational (cohort, case-control or cross-sectional) studies, diagnostic accuracy studies, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, nonrandomized behavioral and public health intervention trials, experimental animal trials, or any other retrospective or prospective clinical or experimental studies. Abstracts should not exceed **400** words and should be structured as follows: Background, Aims, Study Design, Methods, Results, and Conclusion. The main text should be structured as follows: Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, References, Tables, and Figure Legends. The main text should not exceed **3000** words, excluding the abstract, references, tables, and figure legends. There should be a maximum of **30** references.
- **Invited Review Article:** Invited review articles are comprehensive analyses of specific topics in medicine and will undergo peer review prior to acceptance. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses are accepted in this category. Review articles must not exceed **5000** words for the main text (excluding references, tables, and figure legends) and **400** words for the abstract. A review article can be signed by no more than **5** authors and can have no more than **60** references.

- **Case Report:** Interesting rare cases containing a substantial novel finding can be reported. Cases should be unique, representing a diagnostic or therapeutic challenge and having a learning point for the readers. Abstracts of case reports should mainly include information about the case and should be limited to a maximum of 250 words. The abstract must begin on a separate page. The main text of case reports should be structured as follows: Introduction, Case Report, Discussion, and References. Case reports must not exceed **1200** words (excluding references, tables, and figure legends). Case reports can be signed by no more than **5** authors and can have no more than **10** references and **5** figures or tables.
- **Letter to the Editor:** Letters in reference to a journal article must not exceed **500** words (excluding references). Letters not related to a journal article must also not exceed **500** words (excluding references). A letter can be signed by no more than **4** authors and can have no more than **5** references and **1** figure or table.
- **Clinical Image:** For educational purposes, the journal publishes original, interesting, and high quality clinical images having a brief explanation (maximum **500** words excluding references but including figure legends) and of educational significance. The figure legend should contain no more than **100** words. It can be signed by no more than **5** authors and can have no more than **5** references and **1** figure or table. Any information that might identify the patient or hospital, including the date, should be removed from the image. The main text of clinical images should be structured as Case, Discussion, and References.
- **Other:** Editorials, reviewer commentaries, and book reviews are requested by the Editorial Board.

#### Clinical Trials and Reporting Guidelines

The Balkan Medical Journal encourages the registration of clinical trials via ClinicalTrials.gov ([www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)) or one of the registries of the WHO's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP: <http://www.who.int/ictcp/network/primary/en/index.html>). The name of the registry and the registration number should be provided.

Authors should also refer to the guidelines below when preparing their manuscript:

- Randomized controlled trials - CONSORT (<http://www.consort-statement.org/home/>)
- CONSORT translations: [www.consort-statement.org/consort-statement/translations/](http://www.consort-statement.org/consort-statement/translations/)
- Standard protocol items for randomized trials - SPRIT (<http://www.spirit-statement.org/>)
- Observational research: cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies - STROBE ([www.strobe-statement.org](http://www.strobe-statement.org/))
- Diagnostic accuracy studies - STARD ([www.stard-statement.org](http://www.stard-statement.org/))
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses - PRISMA ([www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org/))
- Non-randomized behavioral and public health intervention trials - TREND ([www.cdc.gov/trendstatement](http://www.cdc.gov/trendstatement))
- Experimental animal trials - ARRIVE ([www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive)).



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)

For further information on the reporting guidelines for health research, authors are suggested to refer to the EQUATOR network website (<http://www.equator-network.org/>).

## PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF A MANUSCRIPT

The entire submission process for a manuscript is completed online through the self-explanatory online submission system through the following website: <http://www.balkanmedicaljournal.org>.

The manuscript should be prepared as SEPARATE files in the following order:

1. Cover Letter
2. Title Page
3. Abstract
4. Main Text (text, acknowledgments, references, tables, and figure legends)
5. Figures
6. Author Contribution Form

### 1. Cover Letter

The cover letter should include the article title, article type, and the full name of the corresponding author.

The corresponding author should briefly summarize why his/her paper is a valuable addition to the scientific literature and specify the type of article he/she is submitting (for example, original article, case report, review article, clinical image).

The cover letter should also include a statement declaring the absence or presence of a conflict of interest. Furthermore, there should be a statement that the manuscript has not already been published or accepted for publication and is not submitted or under simultaneous review for publication elsewhere. For manuscripts that have been presented orally or as a poster, this must be stated on the title page with the date and the place of the presentation.

An example of a cover letter can be found here at the journal's webpage, [www.balkanmedicaljournal.org](http://www.balkanmedicaljournal.org)

### 2. Title Page

This should include:

- The complete manuscript title (no more than 150 characters)
- The running head (no more than 50 characters)
- Word counts for the abstract and text (the text word count does not include references, tables, and figure legends)
- The number of references, and the number of figures and tables
- All authors' full names, affiliations and e-mail addresses
- The name, address, telephone and fax numbers and email address of the corresponding author
- Keywords (3-6 key words from the list provided in Index Medicus under "Medical Subject Heading (MeSH)")
- Information about where and when the study has previously been presented.
- Acknowledgements: All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship (ICMJE: authorship and contributorship: [http://www.icmje.org/ethical\\_1author.html](http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html)) and the statement of conflict of interest and funding should be declared under this subheading.

### 3. Abstract

Original articles, invited review articles and case reports should include an abstract. The abstract should be written in both English and Turkish. For the manuscripts outside of Turkey, Turkish translation will be provided by the journal. Abstracts for original articles should be structured as follows: Background, Aims, Study design, Methods, Results, and Conclusion. Abstracts for case reports should be structured as follows: Background, Case Report, and Conclusion. Abstracts for review articles should not be structured. Clinical images, Editorials, Letters to the Editor, and Commentaries should not contain an abstract. Please find the guidelines for abstracts of specific types of manuscripts under the Main Text section below.

### 4. Main Text

The main text should include all manuscript text except the abstract. It should also include references, tables, and figure legends in the following order.

- Text
- References
- Tables
- Figure legends

Author names and their institutional information should not be present in any part of the main text to ensure a blinded review process.

Please note, the abstract and the main text should be prepared and uploaded as separate files. The formats of the abstract and the main text depend on the type of the submitted manuscript. The types of manuscripts are described in the Article Type section above.

### References

Authors are encouraged to cite primary literature rather than review articles in order to give credit to those who have performed the original work. Reference listings must be in accordance with ICMJE ([http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)) standards and numbered consecutively at the end of the manuscript in the order in which they are mentioned in the text. Only published or articles accepted for publication, with preference given to the latest publications should be used. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of references. Journal titles should be abbreviated in accordance with the journal abbreviations in Index Medicus/ Medline/PubMed (for journal abbreviations consult the List of Journals indexed for MEDLINE, published annually by NLM at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html>). For ≤ 6 authors, a list of all authors is required. For > 6 authors, list the first 6 authors followed by et al. In the main text of the manuscript, references should be cited using Arabic numbers in parentheses. The reference styles for different types of publications are presented in the following examples:

- **Journal article:** Korytina G, Kochetova O, Akhmadishina L, Viktorova E, Victorova T. Polymorphisms of cytochrome P450 genes in three ethnic groups from Russia. *Balkan Med J* 2012;29:252-60.
- **Book:** Tos M. *Cartilage tympanoplasty*. 1st ed. Stuttgart-New York: Georg Thieme Verlag; 2009.
- **Book chapter:** Tos M, Stangerup SE. The relationship between secretory otitis and cholesteatoma. In: Tos M, Thomsen J, Peitersen E, editors. *Cholesteatoma and mastoid surgery*. Amsterdam: Kugler & Ghedini; 1989:325-30.
- **Abstract:** Gurakar A, Elshawi K, Akdogan M, Wright H, Nour, B, Sebastian T, et al. Asplenia and primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC): A mere coincidence? *Hepatology* 2002;36:673a (abstract).





# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: *Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)*

- **Article in electronic format:** Morse SS. Factors in the emergence of infectious diseases. *Emerg Infect Dis* (serial online) 1995 Jan-Mar (cited 1996 June 5): 1(1): (24 screens). Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/cid.htm>.
- **For other reference style,** please refer to "ICMJE Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Sample References" at [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)

## Tables and Figure Legends

Tables should be presented after the references section. Each table should be presented on a separate page and have a number and legend. Figure legends must be placed at the end of the main text.

## 5. Figures

Figures, graphs and photographs should be submitted as separate files. Preferred picture formats are TIFF or JPEG, with resolutions of at least 300 DPI and a minimum width of 3 cm.

## 6. Author Contribution Form

This is a statement of scientific contributions and responsibilities of all authors. The form is available on the journal's webpage, [www.balkanmedicaljournal.org](http://www.balkanmedicaljournal.org)

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT AND COPYRIGHT FORM

All authors must sign the Copyright Transfer Agreement Form and send it to the *Journal* Editorial Office within 14 days after submission. Please see the Copyright Transfer Agreement Form for detailed information regarding "Acknowledgement of Authorship, Exclusive Publication Statement, Conflict of Interest Statement, and Transfer of Copyright Agreement"

## CHECKLIST

To finalize submission, the corresponding author should ensure that all files mentioned below have been uploaded:

- A cover letter containing
  - the article title and type and the full name of the corresponding author
  - a brief statement describing the novelty and importance of the work
  - a statement declaring the absence or presence of a conflict of interest
  - a statement that the manuscript has not been previously published or accepted for publication and is not submitted or under simultaneous review for publication elsewhere
- A title page including
  - Authors' affiliations and e-mail addresses, including the name of the corresponding author
  - No abbreviations in the title
  - A statement of the date and place of the meeting where the manuscript was presented orally or as a poster, if necessary
  - Acknowledgements
- Structured Abstract
- Structured Text
  - Ethical approval and/or informed consent has/have been obtained and mentioned in the text
- All Figures have been uploaded and appear correctly
- References are in the correct format and cited sequentially in the text
- The author contribution form is included
- Permission for reprinted figures, tables, materials or photographs has been obtained

- Transfer of Copyright Agreement Form has been sent by post or fax.
- Submission fee is included (only for manuscripts submitted from an address in Turkey)

## REVISIONS

When submitting a revised version of a paper, the author must submit a detailed "Response to reviewers" that states point by point how each issue raised by the reviewers has been covered and where it can be found (each reviewer's comment followed by the author's reply and line numbers where the changes have been made).

Revised manuscripts must be submitted within **45 days** from the date of the decision letter. Revisions not received within the allotted time will automatically be deleted from the system and cannot be evaluated. If the submitting author(s) believe that additional time is required, they should request this extension before the initial **45 day period** is over.

## CHANGE OF AUTHORSHIP AND WITHDRAWAL REQUEST

Any request to change the author list after submission, such as a change in the order of the authors or the deletion or addition of author names, is subject to the Editorial Board's approval. To obtain this approval, please find and complete the change of authorship form on the *Journal's* website and send it to the *Journal's* office. This form should include the following information:

1. The reason for the change of authorship
2. Signatures of all authors (including the new or removed author)

Please note, if you are adding or removing author/authors, a new copyright transfer form signed by all authors should be sent to the editorial office after the Editorial Board approves the change of authorship.

All withdrawal requests at any stage after submission are evaluated by the Editorial Board. *The Balkan Medical Journal* has the right not to accept a withdrawal request. The authors should explain their reason to withdraw the paper by a detailed letter. If the reason of withdrawal is not justified by the Editorial Board, the authors of the paper can be banned for up to 1 (one) year from submitting a new paper to the *Journal*.

## ETHICAL GUIDELINES

*The Balkan Medical Journal* is committed to the highest standards of research and publication ethics. Editors will act in accordance with the relevant international rules of publication ethics (i.e., COPE guidelines: <http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>; WAME resources: <http://www.wame.org/resources/publication-ethics-policies-for-medical-journals>; ORI: <http://ori.hhs.gov/handling-misconduct>) if ethical misconduct is suspected.

An approval of research protocols by an ethics committee in accordance with international agreements (Helsinki Declaration of 1964, last amended 2008-available at <http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/17c.pdf>, "Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals" - [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=5140](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=5140)) is required for all experimental and clinical and drug trial studies. For articles concerning experimental research on humans,



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)

a statement should be included that shows informed consent of patients and volunteers was obtained following a detailed explanation of the procedures that they may undergo. Informed consent must also be obtained for case reports. All recognizable photographs of a patient must be accompanied by written permission from the patient for reproduction. Procedures that were performed to eliminate any pain, harm and distress in subjects/animals should clearly be stated. The authors should clearly state their compliance with internationally accepted guidelines and the guidelines issued by the relevant authority of their country. *The journal* requests a copy of the Ethics Committee Approval received from the relevant authority.

- Plagiarism Detection

Plagiarism is a serious problem and the most common ethical issue afflicting medical writing. *The Balkan Medical Journal* does not allow any form of plagiarism. In accordance with our journal policy, submitted manuscripts are screened with plagiarism software to detect instances of overlapping and similar text (iThenticate and others) at least two times (during the evaluation process and after acceptance).

## PROOFS AND DOI NUMBER

Manuscripts accepted for publication are copy-edited for grammar, punctuation, print style, and format. Page proofs are sent to the corresponding author, who should return the corrected proofs within **2 days** of receipt. DOI numbers are provided after the corrected proofs are received.

### Editorial Office

Editorial Secretary: İlkiz YÜKSEL  
Address: Balkan Medical Journal, Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi, 22030 Edirne, Turkey  
Phone: +90 284 235 76 41/1332  
Fax: +90 284 235 76 52  
E-mail: [info@balkanmedicaljournal.org](mailto:info@balkanmedicaljournal.org)  
[www.balkanmedicaljournal.org](http://www.balkanmedicaljournal.org)

### Publisher

AVES-İbrahim KARA  
Address: Kızılelma cad. 5/3 34096 Fındıkzade-Istanbul  
Phone: +90 212 589 00 53  
Fax: +90 212 589 00 94  
E-mail: [info@avesyayincilik.com](mailto:info@avesyayincilik.com)  
[www.avesyayincilik.com](http://www.avesyayincilik.com)



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)

## INSTRUCTIONS TO REVIEWERS

v.1.1 (updated March 2013. Please check the Journal's website for the latest version)

*The Balkan Medical Journal* is a peer-reviewed open-access international journal that publishes clinical and experimental trials, interesting case reports, invited reviews, letters to the Editor including reports on publication and research ethics, meeting news and bulletin, clinical news and abstracts of interesting research conducted in all fields of medicine. The language of *the journal* is English. *The journal* is based on independent and unbiased double-blinded peer-reviewed principles. Only unpublished papers that are not under review for publication elsewhere can be submitted.

The primary aim of *the journal* is to publish original articles with high scientific and ethical quality and serve as a good example of medical publications in the Balkans. *The Balkan Medical Journal* believes that quality publication will lead to the progress of medical sciences and healthcare in Balkan countries as well as worldwide. *The Balkan Medical Journal* is indexed in CAB Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts, CINAHL, DOAJ, EBSCO, EMBASE, Global Health, Index Copernicus, Journal Citation Reports, Science Citation Index Expanded (Web of Science) and Scopus databases.

The Editorial Board of *the Balkan Medical Journal* and the Publisher adheres to the principles of the International Council of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), the Council of Science Editors (CSE), the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the US National Library of Medicine (NLM), the US Office of Research Integrity (ORI), the European Association of Science Editors (EASE), and the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors (ISMTE). The editor-in-chief has full authority over the editorial and scientific content of the Balkan Medical Journal and the timing of publication of the content.

All articles submitted for publication are strictly reviewed for their

- originality,
- methodology,
- importance,
- quality,
- ethical nature and
- suitability for *the journal*.

*The Balkan Medical Journal* uses a well-constructed scheme for the evaluation process. (Please refer to "Instructions to Author" page for more information).

Overall, the acceptance rate of the *Balkan Medical Journal* is between 10% and 15%, and the median response time for all submissions is 3 weeks (2 weeks for rejected papers, and for accepted papers, 5 weeks for the first revision request by the external reviewers). The median overall response time for accepted papers is 13 weeks because the editors and reviewers of the *Balkan Medical Journal* usually need to assist authors to improve their papers through several revisions to increase the quality of the articles published in *the journal*.

The entire submission process for a manuscript is completed online through the self-explanatory online submission system through the following website: <http://www.balkanmedicaljournal.org>. The reviewers can also reach their personal pages from the same address with their own passwords.

Manuscripts that comply with the main rules of *the journal* are sent to at least two reviewers from the Advisory Board, and the reviewers are asked for their opinion about the suitability of the paper for publication. The reviewed manuscripts are then re-reviewed by the Editorial Board and a decision of rejection or acceptance is shaped.

If the reviewers have **any potential competing interests**, they must notify the editor before agreeing to review a submission.

*The Balkan Medical Journal* is committed to the highest standards of **research and publication ethics**. Editors will act in accordance with the relevant international rules of publication ethics (i.e., COPE guidelines, WAME resources, ORI) if ethical misconduct is suspected. The Editorial Board of *the Balkan Medical Journal* encourages reviewers to comment on possible research or publication misconduct such as unethical research design, duplication, plagiarism, etc. Plagiarism is a serious problem and the most common ethical issue afflicting medical writing. *The Balkan Medical Journal* does not allow any form of plagiarism. In accordance with our journal policy, submitted manuscripts are screened with



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)

plagiarism software to detect instances of overlapping and similar text (iThenticate and others) at least two times (during the evaluation process and after acceptance). If the reviewers have any suspect, the editors can provide them information obtained by plagiarism screening tools.

An approval of research protocols by an ethics committee in accordance with international agreements (Helsinki Declaration of 1964, last amended 2008, and "Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals") is required for all experimental and clinical and drug trial studies. For articles concerning experimental research on humans, a statement should be included that shows informed consent of patients and volunteers was obtained following a detailed explanation of the procedures that they may undergo. Informed consent must also be obtained for case reports. All recognizable photographs of a patient must be accompanied by written permission from the patient for reproduction. Procedures that were performed to eliminate any pain, harm and distress in subjects/animals should clearly be stated. The authors should clearly state their compliance with internationally accepted guidelines and the guidelines issued by the relevant authority of their country. *The journal* requests a copy of the Ethics Committee Approval received from the relevant authority.

*The Balkan Medical Journal* wants reviewers to treat the manuscripts in confidence. The material of the manuscripts must not be used or shared in any way until they have been published. *The Balkan Medical Journal* follows the COPE flowchart in cases of suspected reviewer misconduct. Please refer to COPE ethical guidelines for peer reviewers for "Basic principles to which peer reviewers should adhere" and "Expectations from reviewers".

*The Balkan Medical Journal* uses bibliographic databases and also accepts authors' suggestions to

find new reviewers. *The journal* thanks to the reviewers and publishes the reviewer list every year in the last issue. It is also being planned to award the reviewers on the basis of their performance.

If the reviewers need, they can go through the "Instructions to Authors". They can also use the questions below, when reviewing the manuscripts:

1. Please state any conflict(s) of interest that you have in relation to the review of this manuscript (state "none" if this is not applicable).
2. Do you suspect any research or publication misconduct? If yes, please indicate in detail.
3. Does the manuscript contain new and significant information to justify publication?
4. Is the title of the article appropriate?
5. Does the abstract clearly and accurately describe the content of the article?
6. Is the problem significant and concisely stated?
7. Are the methods described comprehensively?
8. Is the results section clear and satisfactory?
9. Are the interpretations and conclusions justified by the results?
10. Is adequate and current reference made to other work in the field?
11. Is the language acceptable?
12. Please rate the priority for publishing this article (1 is the highest priority, 10 is the lowest priority).
13. Is the appropriate terminology used in the text?
14. Is it sufficient that figures and/or tables?
15. Is it necessary to shorten the article?



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: *Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)*

## CONTENTS

### Editorial

- 261 Educational Perspective of the *Balkan Medical Journal*  
*Mustafa İnan; Turkey*

### Original Articles

- 263 Characteristics of Hepatitis B Co-infection and Disease Evolution in HIV-Positive Paediatric Patients in Romania  
*Manuela Arbune, Costinela Georgescu; Romania*
- 268 A Study of the Impact of Death Receptor 4 (DR4) Gene Polymorphisms in Alzheimer's Disease  
*Tuba Gökdoğan Edgünlü, Aynur Özge, Osman Özgür Yalın, Seval Kul, Mehmet Emin Erdal; Turkey*
- 273 Decreased Daily Melatonin Levels in Women with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus - A Short Report  
*Ralitsa Robeva, Dobromir Tanev, Georgi Kirilov, Milena Stoycheva, Analia Tomova, Philip Kumanov, Rasho Rashkov, Zlatimir Kolarov; Bulgaria*
- 277 The Effectiveness of Transdermal Opioid in the Management Multiple Rib Fractures  
*Okan Solak, Gürhan Öz, Serdar Kokulu, Özlem Solak, Gökçen Doğan, Hıdır Esmé, Kubilay Öcalan, Elif Doğan Baki; Turkey*
- 282 Bloodstream Infections among Solid Organ Transplant Recipients: Eight Years' Experience from a Turkish University Hospital  
*Ayşegül Yeşilkaya, Özlem Kurt Azap, Melike Hamiyet Demirkaya, Mehtap Akçıl Ok, Hande Arslan, Aydıncan Akdur; Turkey*
- 287 The Status of Telomerase Enzyme Activity in Benign and Malignant Gynaecologic Pathologies  
*İlhami Gül, Özgür Dündar, Serkan Bodur, Yusuf Tunca, Levent Tütüncü; Turkey*
- 293 Grayanotoxin (Mad Honey) - Ongoing Consumption After Poisoning  
*Serkan Emre Eroğlu, Oğuz Urgan, Özge Ecmel Onur, Arzu Denizbaşı, Haldun Akoğlu; Turkey*
- 296 Risks of Metabolic Syndrome in Students of the Faculty of Health Sciences  
*Ersin Öğüş, Mustafa Agah Tekindal, Yelda Ceylan, Merve Demirel, Neşe Emecioğlu, İlçim Ercan, Deniz Eroğlu, Sevinç Haner; Turkey*
- 301 Relationship between *Helicobacter pylori* Adenotonsillar Colonization and Frequency of Adenotonsillitis in Children  
*Oğuz Güçlü, Alper Akçalı, Erkan Melih Şahin, Kazım Tekin, Ozan Barutçu, Müşerref Tatman Otkun, Fevzi Sefa Dereköy; Turkey*
- 305 Mucosal Cysts of the Maxillary Sinus in Solid Organ Transplant Population: Computerised Tomography Follow-Up Results  
*Erdiñ Aydın, Hasan Yerli, Suna Tanrıku, Evren Hizal; Turkey*
- 309 Protective Effects of Alpha-Lipoic Acid on Oleic Acid-Induced Acute Lung Injury in Rats  
*Funda Gülcü Bulmuş, Mehmet Ferit Gürsu, Mehmet Hamdi Muz, İhsan Yaman, Özgür Bulmuş, Fatih Sakin; Turkey*

### Case Reports

- 315 Unusual Presentations of Actinomycosis; Anterior Abdominal Wall and Appendix: Report of Three Cases  
*Faruk Karateke, Sefa Özyazıcı, Ebru Menekşe, Koray Daş, Mehmet Özdoğan; Turkey*



# BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Citation Abbreviation: Balkan Med J (Formerly Trakya Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Dergisi)

- 318 **Renal Sparing Surgery Using Focus Ultracision Harmonic Scalpel in Patients with Bilateral Wilms' Tumor: Case Report**  
*Murat Alkan, Cemal Parlakgümüş, Serdar Hilmi İskit, Recep Tuncer, Hasan Okur, Ünal Zorludemir; Turkey*
- 321 **Anaesthetic Management of a Patient with Pseudo-TORCH Syndrome**  
*Derya Berk, Alparslan Kuş, Tülay Şahin, Mine Solak, Kamil Tokar; Turkey*
- 323 **Inflammatory Myofibroblastic Tumor of the Gallbladder**  
*İsmail Özsan, Mustafa Özsoy, Erkan Şahin, Ragıp Ortaç, Ünal Aydın; Turkey*
- 327 **Sudden Hearing Loss after Rabies Vaccination**  
*Oğuz Güçlü, Fevzi Sefa Dereköy; Turkey*
- 329 **Congenital Peribronchial Myofibroblastic Tumor: A Case Report and Review of the Literature**  
*Arbil Açıklın, Derya Gümürdülü, Emine Bağır, Gülfiliz Gönlüşen, Serdar İskit; Turkey*
- 333 **High-Grade Transformation of Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Delineated with a Fibrous Rim: A Case Report**  
*Hamide Sayar, Sülen Sarıoğlu, Sevgi Bakariş, İlhami Yıldırım, Hüseyin Öztarakçı; Turkey*
- 337 **A Rare Form of Guillan Barre Syndrome: A Child Diagnosed with Anti-GD1a and Anti-GD1b Positive Pharyngeal-Cervical-Brachial Variant**  
*Metin Uysalol, Burak Tatlı, Nedret Uzel, Agop Çıtak, Erhan Aygün, Semra Kayaoğlu; Turkey*

## Clinical Image

- 342 **An Unusual Case of Tick Exposure: Tick in the External Auditory Canal**  
*Mahmut Özkırış, Çiğdem Kader, Zeliha Kapusuz; Turkey*

## Letter

- 343 **Determination of Anti-Nuclear Antibody Seroprevalence in Adult Age Groups in Trabzon Province**  
*Neşe Kaklıkkaya, Altan Akıneden, Murat Topbaş, Faruk Aydın; Turkey*
- 345 **A Case of Hypogonadism Presented with Alopecia Universalis**  
*Gökhan Celbek, Hakan Turan, Yusuf Aydın, Fatih Ermiş; Turkey*

## Statement

- 347 **Statement From The International Scientific Summer School Collaboration Group**  
*ISSS Collaboration Group*