MLTJ
Muscles, Ligaments and Tendons Journal

EDITORIAL

A NEW ERA FOR THE MUSCLES, LIGAMENTS AND TENDONS JOURNAL (MLTJ)

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KEYWORDS

MLTJ, Muscles, Ligaments and Tendons Journal, Italian Society of Muscles Ligaments and Tendons, I.S.Mu.L.T.

Muscles, Ligaments and Tendons Journal (MLTJ) was founded in September 2011[1]. The clearly status goal was to become a dedicated scientific platform for clinicians, researchers, and allied professionals working in the field of musculoskeletal soft tissue medicine. Since its establishment, the journal has progressively matured into a respected reference point to disseminate knowledge in sports medicine, orthopaedics, sport trauma, rehabilitation, and basic science, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and supporting the advancement of evidence-based clinical practice, against many skeptics.

In those editorials[1,2] written with the Co-Founders of the Italian Society of Muscles Ligaments and Tendons (I.S.Mu.L.T.)[2], Prof. Nicola Maffulli and Prof. Antonio Frizziero, we explained the scientific rationales on why we founded the I.S.Mu.L.T. and MLTJ. After 15 years, those reasons were proven right, and today the little baby has grown up and become a teenager[3].

It is a great honour for me to take over the role of Editor-in-Chief of MLTJ. I am grateful to those who have contributed to the development of the journal, including my Mentor Prof. Nicola Maffulli, now Editor Emeritus, members of the Editorial Board, reviewers, authors, and readers. Their commitment has laid the foundation for the next phase of growth. Our history of meritocracy and intellectual honesty, which were passed down to me by my master, remain the lighthouses that will illuminate our future.

Over the years, MLTJ has published thousands of contributions spanning muscle, tendon and ligament biology, biomechanics, surgical innovations, rehabilitation protocols, regenerative strategies, guidelines and clinical outcomes. This diversity reflects the journal's identity: a forum where translational research meets clinical reality, with the ultimate purpose of improving patient care and athletic performance.

The future of MLTJ must be guided by a clear and ambitious vision: to strengthen its scientific standing and to increase its international impact.

For this reason, a new publisher SMC media (https://smc-media.eu/) has been chosen to help in an increasingly competitive publishing landscape.

One of the key objectives of this new editorial direction will be to increase the scientific profile. Indeed, a great pool of Associate Editors will help me to attract original research of high methodological quality, prospective clinical trials, multicentre studies, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, will help me in never ending process of improvement of the peer-review process.

MLTJ needs to walk alone without the economic support of I.S.Mu.L.T. Hence after 15 years of totally free publishing, authors will be required to pay a publication fee for each accepted article, while maintaining copyright ownership.

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Obviously, we shall continue to welcome high-value translational research that bridges basic science and clinical applications, particularly in the fields of tendon biology, ligament healing, and muscle injury.

Additionally, MLTJ will continue to promote thematic issues and invited contributions from leading experts. Special Issues dedicated to emerging topics—such as biologic augmentation, novel rehabilitation strategies, artificial intelligence in musculoskeletal imaging, and advanced surgical techniques—will represent an important opportunity to highlight cutting-edge research and stimulate scientific debate.

Another essential step will be to expand the international visibility of the journal. MLTJ has already demonstrated strong potential: further growth requires a broader involvement of international authors and institutions. Strengthening collaborations with scientific societies and research networks will be crucial to achieving this objective.

Ultimately, increasing the Impact Factor of MLTJ is not merely a sterile numerical goal, but the natural consequence of publishing influential high quality scientific work that is widely read and cited. By focusing on scientific excellence, editorial integrity, and global engagement, MLTJ aims to consolidate its role as a leading journal in the own field.

I invite researchers, clinicians, and professionals to contribute to this mission. MLTJ will continue to serve as a home for innovation, discussion, and scientific progress. Together, we can ensure that MLTJ enters a new era of growth, credibility, and international recognition.

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