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## Developing the European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Journal's Network

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The European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Journal's Network (EPRMJN) began its history with an Editorial<sup>1</sup> by Gerold Stucki (Journals delegate of the European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine – ESPRM) and Alessandro Giustini (President of ESPRM), published in the European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (EJPRM). This result came after some discussions and a consensus reached during a Meeting during the 16<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Bruges, Belgium. This meeting saw the participation of the ESPRM Presidents and Journals delegate, the editors of the Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine (Gunnar Grimby), the EJPRM (Stefano Negrini), the *Annales de Réadaptation et de Médecine Physique* (André Thevenon) and the *Physikalische Medizin, Rehabilitationsmedizin, Kurortmedizin* - Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (Stuttgart) (Ulrich Smolenski).

The aim of the EPRMJN is to increase the scientific knowledge among physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM) specialists and to foster collaboration among national, regional and European PRM journals. One of the main goals of the EPRMJN is to give the widest possible readership to the papers published in each European journal, so increasing the visibility of European research among (not only) continental readers and scientists and promoting the high quality of PRM research and knowledge across Europe. Another aim is to develop the collaboration with international journals — such as the Euro-American Focus — as it has already been established between the

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EJPRM and the American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.<sup>2, 3</sup>

According to the EPRMJN definition, regional journals affiliated to the ESPRM are those journal published in languages that cover more than one nation. They currently include the *Annales de Réadaptation et de Médecine Physique*, written in French and English, which covers France and the French speaking regions in Europe and countries in Africa, and the *Physikalische Medizin, Rehabilitationsmedizin, Kurortmedizin*, written in German and English, that covers Germany, Austria and other German speaking regions in Europe. The European official journal of ESPRM is the EJPRM, formerly *Europa Medicophysica*. The national journals include all the journals published in the single countries, in the country language or in English (Figure 1).

In 2009 we are starting the collaboration among

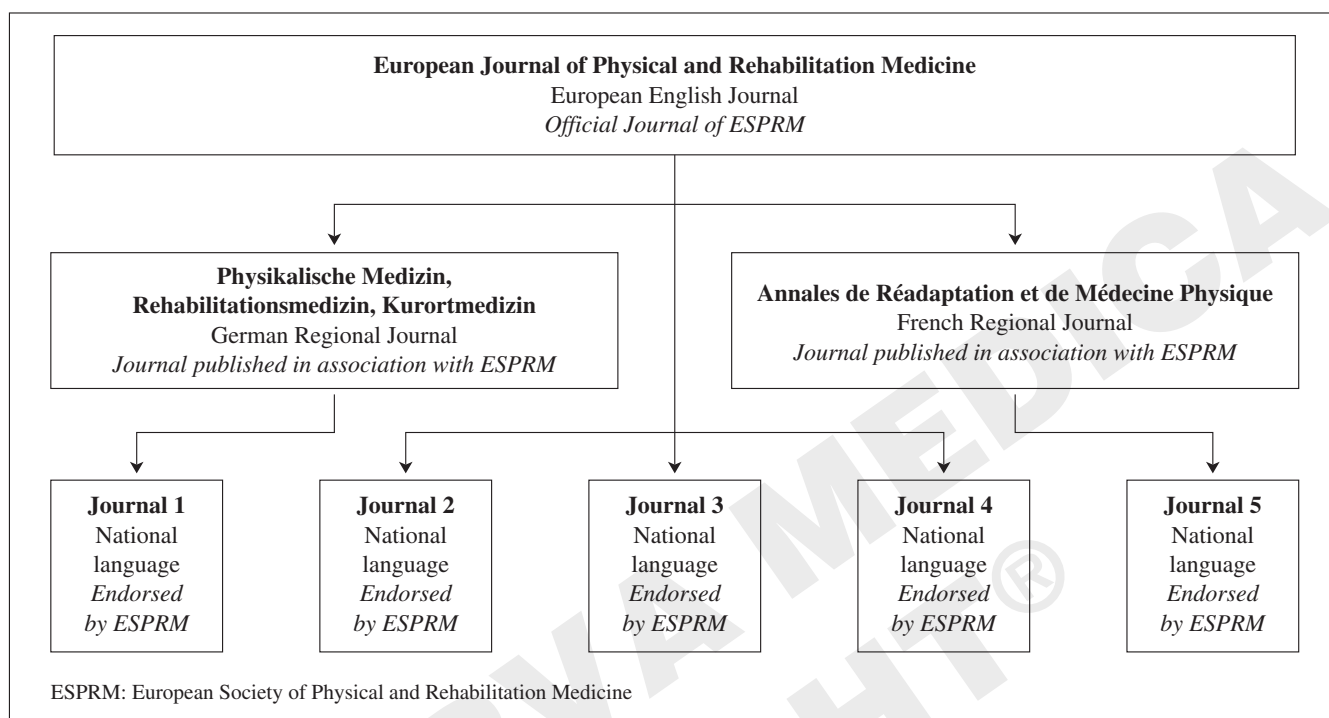


Figure 1.—Current development of the European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Journal's Network. Collaboration is starting in 2009 among the European and the regional journals, while with the National Journals is planned for 2010.

European journals with some editorials in the EJPRM and in the regional journals in order to explain the aim of EPRMJN and to present the initiatives of the European journals to strengthen their activities and the PRM specialty in Europe, in order to offer a better service to readers, authors, PRM researchers, clinicians, and European and national PRM societies.

At this stage of development of the EPRMJN the first aim is to let all European PRM specialists know what has been published in these journals, independently of the language in which the paper was originally conceived. This will be done by publishing in all the journals a systematic review of the contents of each EPRMJN journal in English. This means that the contents of the EJPRM will be published in all the other EPRMJN journals, while the EJPRM will publish the contents of the regional (long articles) and national (short articles) EPRMJN journals. Each EPRMJN regional journal could publish the contents of the EPRMJN national journals of its region. This aim will also be reached through the publication in the EJPRM web site ([www.ejprm.org](http://www.ejprm.org))<sup>4</sup> of the abstracts in English

and in the original languages of all the papers published in the EPRMJN regional and national journals; this will be included in the multilanguage Internet edition of the EJPRM, that is going to be developed for the EPRMJN national journals. In the Internet Multilanguage Edition there will be the possibility for the adhering national societies to translate the English abstracts of the EJPRM and other EPRMJN journals in their own language.

The second aim is to let European readers to know exactly the situation of each national journal across Europe. This will be done in collaboration with ESPRM starting with a data collection according to the proposed questionnaire (Figure 2). Each national representative in the ESPRM will be required to answer to the questions together with the national journal editors. These results will be published in the EJPRM.

The third aim is to establish a relationships in the reference frame of the EPRMJN with the national journals and societies, in order to achieve the first aim.

We are aware that the EPRMJN is an ambitious project, but we are confident that it will increase both the

**Is there in your Country one or more Journals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine ?**  
**If no, please check this box  if there is more than one, please fill one table per Journal**

General data of the Journal					
Official name					
English name					
Main language					
Other languages					
Abbreviation					
Official Journal of					
URL (http://)					
Cited in data bases					
Impact factor					
General aim	<input type="checkbox"/> research	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
Peer review	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, blind	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, not blind	Number of peer reviewers per paper:	
Chief-Editor					
Title	Name				
Full address					
E-mail					
Publisher					
Name					
Full address					
E-mail					
Specific data of the Journal					
Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
1. Number of papers received					
2. Number of papers invited					
3. Number of papers rejected					
4. Number of papers published					
Number of original articles					
Number of reviews					
Number of case reports					
Number of editorial					
Number of other papers					
5. Topics of the journal					
Number of musculoskeletal papers					
Number of neurological papers					
Number of other clinical papers					
Number of general rehabilitation papers					
Number of basic science paper					
Number of other papers					
6. Country of authors					
Number of papers from main country					
Number of papers from second country					
Number of papers from other countries					
7. Number of issues					
8. Number of printed pages					
9. Average time to answer to the author about publication					
10. Average time to publish a paper					

Figure 2.—Questionnaire to collect data about the national journals in the reference frame of the European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Journal's Network.

power of the EPRMJN journals in the PRM worldwide panorama, and the knowledge of PRM scientists and clinicians across Europe.

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