

# Alive and kicking<sup>1</sup>

by Marco Confalonieri

The *Shortness of Breath (SoB)* online journal was conceived less than two years ago just in front of the Adriatic sea, drinking an orange juice comfortably seated at the right hand of a good friend in the major square of Trieste. Trieste, is a medium-small city in Northern East of Italy, on the border with Slovenia where people from different religions, races, and cultures live peacefully together after a long series of crappies events that happened during the last century. Only a few decades ago this part of Italy was the most guarded by the Italian and Yugoslav troops during the so called Cold War, but it was also the core of the first World War. The great Italian and Trieste's writer Claudio Magris recently wrote that the Cold War was the continuation of the first World War that took place in this European area just one century ago<sup>2</sup>. That "useless massacre" and "suicide of Europe", as Pope Benedict XV termed on 1914 the impending first World War, left unsolved huge problems and prepared the second World War and then the Cold War with its 45 millions of deaths only far from the European area. When the online scientific journal *SoB* was conceived Trieste was back a central city of a new Europe, and Claudio Magris unveiled the first issue of *SoB* with a beautiful "medical humanities" paper entitled "*Telling the truth*"<sup>3</sup>.

The key words of *Shortness of Breath* quarterly online journal are its portrayal: telling the truth, clinical respiratory medicine in any of its aspects, life sciences as a look at the present basic science research and at future medicine, and finally medical humanities because medicine is hopefully becoming more and more science, but its matter still remains the human being. To date several high quality educational and update mini-reviews are freely available on [www.shortnessofbreath.it](http://www.shortnessofbreath.it). Topics ranged from mechanical ventilation to bronchial asthma, from rare diseases to national epidemiology of smoking habit. After less than two years from the first issue of *SoB* I wondered if the journal is alive or not, and the webmaster reply was clear: 435,141 visitors from 2014 January 1st to May 31st. Moreover, hits were more and more than visits. Please note the difference between visits and hits on a web page stats. "Hits", in the raw form, counts every download from your site. So a visit to your home page could score hits for the page itself, the background, every graphic, etc. But all those hits just count as one visit. The web counter of



Trieste by night from the "Molo Audace" quay.

the *SoB* journal counts a visit only when the visitor first arrives at the web site. So as the visitor moves from page to page, the hit counter continues to count all those individual files being served, but it's still just one visit. So, the visits number is actual traffic of people reading the site, the hits are how many times total anyone has visited the page, including multiple visits by the same person, or IP address. 'Visits' on the other hand are 'unique hits'. This means that it only counts the number of unique people who have visited the website. In other words, *SoB* is actually alive and kicking, and good quality manuscripts are submitting to it till now. Last but not least, *SoB* is posting any its published paper on *PubMed* with the aim to be indexed as soon as possible. Hopefully, at the end of the present year *Shortness of Breath* will be indexed becoming a recognized scientific journal, not only one of the most common respiratory symptoms.

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<sup>1</sup> *Simple Minds*, Emi Music 1985.

<sup>2</sup> Magris C. <http://www.ilnostrotempo.it/?q=node/971>.

<sup>3</sup> Magris C. *Telling the Truth. Shortness of Breath*. 2012;1:27-9.