

# The baby is growing: PubMed Listing for Muscles Ligaments and Tendons Journal

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None of us gambles, but we did exactly that when, some four years ago, we decided that the time was ripe to start I.S.Mu.L.T., the Italian Society of Muscles, Tendons and Ligaments. I.S.Mu.L.T. aims to involve in its activities all professionals undertaking basic and clinical research, and conservative, surgical and rehabilitative care of muscle, ligament and tendons conditions<sup>1,2</sup>. We started as an Italian society, and we immediately decided that I.S.Mu.L.T., despite its distinctive national character, was to have absolute openness to Europe and the rest of the world. Hence, its two official languages: together with Italian, English. The first executive decision was to have Muscles, Ligaments and Tendons Journal (MLTJ) as its international journal, totally in English<sup>3,4</sup>.

Let us share what we felt at the time: we were bold, and we were afraid. The classical power lines of Italian societal politics were willingly not considered, and we established that meritocracy would have reigned prince. We decided that, uniquely on the Italian

scene, at the annual congress only the speakers invited to share their knowledge and wisdom would have spoken: if they were not able to, for any reason, no substitute would have taken their place. We want our attendees to hear it from the horse's mouth.

MLTJ is our scientific window to the world. We were pleased with MLTJ; many of our colleagues were not, and were fairly green with envy, seeing I.S.Mu.L.T. and MLTJ as competitors. Previous initiatives of this kind by other Italian scientific organisations started, but did not flourish. We were pleased, and also afraid. We had a clear short term objective: to be listed in PubMed as soon as possible. The strategy was set: in keeping with the spirit of I.S.Mu.L.T., MLTJ would have pursued excellence, and so it has been. The Editorial Board has worked jolly hard to spread the word, and to try and attract quality contributions: we may have been shunned by some, but many contributed and their articles published. The editorial policy of being selective has paid off. We believe that the contributions to MLTJ are of great quality, and this has allowed us to select only the best. Rejection is now at 55%, and rising, but do not hesitate to submit your papers: they will receive a fast and fair assessment. Our publisher, CIC, helped out by streamlining the technical production process, and soon the product was there for all to see. A baby, indeed.

Now, we are proud to say that MLTJ is listed in PubMed: please have a look at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/2114/>. Some will say it is a great achievement: no other journal of this kind in Italy has succeeded in reaching this landmark in such a short time. In addition, MLTJ has become the official journal of EFOS and of SITOD, bearing witness to its international and interdisciplinary mission<sup>5</sup>. Some would say that this is enough. We believe it is a good beginning on which to build our great future<sup>6,7</sup>. We now wish to improve the already high quality of MLTJ, to make it more widely read, and to obtain and impact factor as soon as possible. We cannot do this without you, our authors and our readership: continue to read, and support Muscles, Ligaments and Tendons Journal; send us your ideas for guest issues, reviews and editorials; above all, stay close to MLTJ and I.S.Mu.L.T., and watch this space.

## References

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