

THE ARGUMENT FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW JOURNAL OF ANESTHESIA AND INTENSIVE CARE

Tina Tomić Mahečić, Robert Baronica, Dora Karmelić,
Ivan Šitum, Ante Erceg, Slobodan Mihaljević

UHC Zagreb, Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine, Kišpatičeva 12, Zagreb, Croatia

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SUMMARY

The field of anesthesia and intensive care is an essential component of modern healthcare. It significantly impacts patient outcomes in elective and emergency medical settings. Integrating anesthesia and intensive care practices is crucial for patient survival, recovery, and overall healthcare efficiency.

Despite their importance in clinical settings, there is a lack of scientific and published work in this field of expertise, particularly in smaller countries. This significant gap requires establishing a new national and regional journal focused on anesthesia and intensive care medicine. Such a journal should address specific national and regional issues, encourage and promote research, and facilitate collaboration within the community.

This article makes a compelling case for establishing a New Journal of Anesthesia and Intensive Care (NJAIC), the Academic Alliance for Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine. It outlines its benefits for practitioners, researchers, and healthcare institutions.

Keywords: Journal, Anesthesia, Intensive Care Medicine

CURRENT LANDSCAPE OF ANESTHESIA AND INTENSIVE CARE JOURNALS

Globally, numerous medical journals are dedicated to anesthesia and intensive care. Prestigious publications such as *Anesthesia & Analgesia*, the *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, and *Intensive Care Medicine* have significantly contributed to spreading clinical research and best practices (Lauritsen & Moller 2004, Andr s & Lavigne 2024).

However, these journals are often oriented towards broad international audiences, leaving a gap in context-specific research and regional issues. Although they provide valuable information, these journals may not address the unique clinical and administrative challenges faced by healthcare systems at the national and regional levels, where local policies, regulations, and patient demographics play crucial roles in medical care (Rivas-Ruiz 2019). Consequently, due to strict audit principles, quality articles and research from smaller countries and regions can easily be rejected.

IMPORTANCE OF A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

It is widely recognized that medical journals are vital for spreading new knowledge and clinical practices. They enable researchers and practitioners to share the latest findings, methodologies, and innovative ideas in a peer-reviewed format (Kaynar 2022). Establishing a national or regional journal focused on anesthesia and intensive care medicine illustrates the enthusiasm and creativity of

the dedicated medical community. A journal like this would encourage local researchers, enhance visibility, and ensure global representation. The *New Journal of Anesthesia and Intensive Care (NJAIC)*, the *Academic Alliance for Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine*, would provide an invaluable platform for addressing the unique needs of the local healthcare system. Such a journal can focus on issues relevant to healthcare professionals operating within the same regulatory and economic frameworks, including training practices and continuing medical education, as well as specific regional disease burden and resource allocation. This context-specific approach would allow for more targeted research, evidence-based guidelines, and recommendations immediately applicable within the local healthcare setting.

Establishing a new journal would highlight our country's strong foundation and tradition in anesthesia and intensive care practice in the region, emphasizing the capacity of local professionals to contribute meaningful research and clinical advancements.

The successes of modern Croatian anesthesia and intensive care medicine are recognized in European and global contexts. The best example of this is transplantation medicine, where we rank among the leaders in the number of donated organs and transplanted patients per million inhabitants. In our country, we perform transplantation of all solid organs (heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas), and simultaneous transplants (e.g., heart/liver or heart/kidney) are also successfully conducted (<https://www.transplant-observatory.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2023-data-global-report-20022025.pdf>). All these procedures require

exceptionally well-organized anesthesia and intensive care. Anesthesia and intensive care medicine related to transplantation procedures represent some of the most challenging and complex practices in the field, highlighting the exceptional quality of our specialists (Mah et al. 2023).

Additionally, several anesthesiology and intensive care societies operate in our country, promoting the profession both domestically and internationally (e.g., Croatian Society of Anesthesiology, Reanimatology, and Intensive Care Medicine (HDARIM), Croatian Society of Intensive Care Medicine (HDIM), Croatian Society of Regional Anesthesia and Analgesia (HDRAA), and others). These societies actively organize annual meetings, workshops, and courses at national and international levels.

Today's profession's successes are built upon the strong tradition and history of anesthesiology in Croatia; the first successful anesthesia in Croatia was performed in 1847 in Zadar, just five months after the first public demonstration of ether anesthesia in Boston (Šakić 2011).

Moreover, national collaboration and research efforts may be essential for solving public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and earthquakes in Zagreb. Crises like these require rapid adaptation of anesthesia and intensive care practices. National-level insights into the deployment of intensive care units (ICUs), the management of ventilator shortages, and the training of anesthesiologists and intensivists during such crises highlight the need for a dedicated platform to exchange ideas, data, and clinical experiences continuously.

Furthermore, this journal could serve as a channel for disseminating national or institutional guidelines that can be directly adopted and implemented across hospitals and healthcare systems (Suzuki et al. 2006).

THE ROLE OF A NEW JOURNAL IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

A dedicated new journal would encourage anesthesiologists to conduct research relevant to their unique clinical settings and challenges. Resource-limited settings often produce innovative solutions that deserve broader recognition (van Zyl et al. 2021). The journal could serve as an educational tool for training medical students and early-career professionals, familiarizing them with current research trends and practices.

Croatia, a country with approximately 700 anesthesiologists, has a unique opportunity to strengthen its medical community by launching a scientific journal focused on anesthesia and intensive care. The journal should cover all kinds of scientific work, including original research investigations, review articles, case reports, case series, interviews with experts, guidelines from national anesthesiological and intensive care medicine societies, and other areas of perioperative medicine. The most important areas of interest for this journal would include general and regional anesthesia, mechanical ventilation, hemodynamic monitoring,

management of coagulation and bleeding, volume and fluid management, the use of ultrasound in everyday clinical practice, transplantation medicine, treatment of different types of shock, antimicrobial prophylaxis and therapy, parenteral and enteral nutrition, treatment of delirium, and many others.

This initiative would provide a platform to highlight the country's expertise and promote regional collaboration and research partnerships among academic institutions, healthcare providers, and industry stakeholders to inspire innovation despite resource constraints.

Anesthesia and intensive care are disciplines characterized by complex, highly technical practices that require ongoing education and training (Chin et al. 2024). The journal would provide a valuable resource for practitioners and clinicians looking to stay updated on the latest clinical guidelines, techniques, equipment, and innovations.

By focusing on national standards and regional medical practices, the journal would provide accessible, relevant, and practical information for medical students, residents, anesthesiologists, intensivists, and all other perioperative physicians. In addition to the national standardization of medical practice, one of the most critical roles of this journal could be to promote regional scientific and clinical collaboration with neighboring countries. This may improve the quality of care in every country, reduce existing costs through resource sharing, and improve patient outcomes. For example, medical journal editors in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have emphasized the importance of pooling resources for training editors, reviewers, and researchers and minimizing expenses through gift and exchange programs. Collaborations with academic institutions or government agencies can provide essential financial or infrastructural support for journal operations (Larsson & Larsson 2020).

SUPPORTING THE ANESTHESIA AND INTENSIVE CARE WORKFORCE

The *New Journal of Anesthesia and Intensive Care (NJAIC)*, the *Academic Alliance for Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine*, could play a pivotal role in supporting the professional development of the national workforce. The journal could publish career development articles, interviews with leading professionals, and insights into the latest anesthesia and intensive care trends.

Addressing the specific challenges and issues related to anesthesia, intensive care specialists, and nurses is essential due to the increasing pressure on healthcare systems worldwide, including practitioner shortages and burnout. Moreover, the journal could offer a platform for promoting professional networking and collaboration, which is vital for career advancement and knowledge sharing. By highlighting national conferences, workshops, and training programs, the journal could

become an essential resource for development initiatives and policy advocacy at the national and regional levels. Small countries such as Croatia, with limited budgets, have employed innovative strategies to support the publication of medical journals, ensuring that their researchers and practitioners can share knowledge and contribute to global medical science. Many small countries adopt open-access publishing models using platforms like the "Open Journal System" (OJS) (Iyandemye & Thomas 2019). This cost-effective and user-friendly system allows journals to be free for authors and readers. For example, the "Journal of Health Informatics in Developing Countries" uses OJS and relies on the goodwill of editorial teams and international collaborations to sustain operations.

As we know, article processing charges (APCs) can often be prohibitive for researchers in low-resource settings (Saloojee & Pettifor 2024).

The journal could adopt tiered pricing or seek subsidies from international organizations to address this. The journal may also pursue funding from international grants, academic institutions, or public-private partnerships to cover operational costs. Utilizing online publishing platforms can help reduce costs associated with print editions while increasing global reach (Mondal & Mondal 2024).

The plan is to ensure high-quality peer review processes that will enhance credibility and attract submissions from international researchers. Transitioning to an open-access model can maximize the number of readers and minimize barriers for researchers from low- and middle-income countries and underrepresented regions. After enhancing the journal's reputation and impact, the plan is to ensure indexation and presentation in international databases, attracting submissions from a broader range of researchers (Fassoulaki et al. 2001).

Collaborations with international organizations and initiatives like HINARI (Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative), developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), are essential (Saric 2016). These initiatives provide low-cost or free access to high-quality scientific journals for developing countries. This program helps researchers stay updated and improve their chances of publishing internationally by offering access to current knowledge.

Non-profits like PREPSS (Pre-Publication Support Services) offer pre-publication support, including peer review and editing services, to researchers from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) without charging fees (Newton 2020).

These strategies demonstrate that even with financial constraints, small countries can successfully publish medical journals by leveraging technology, fostering collaborations, and adopting flexible financial models (Logullo et al. 2024).

Launching a *New Journal of Anesthesia and Intensive Care (NJAIC)*, the Academic Alliance for Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine is an academic success and a

statement of scientific enthusiasm and innovation. It validates the expertise of local professionals, supports collaboration, and elevates the country's place in global medical research. By addressing challenges such as funding and accessibility, this initiative can become a cornerstone for advancing anesthesia practice locally and internationally.

By providing a dedicated platform for local research and clinical experiences, the journal can become a cornerstone for advancing anesthesia and intensive care practices. It can help identify best practices, highlight areas for improvement, and drive evidence-based changes in patient care.

CONCLUSION

Establishing a *New Journal of Anesthesia and Intensive Care (NJAIC)*, the Academic Alliance for Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine is a timely, powerful, and essential initiative for the healthcare community. By focusing on the specific needs of national healthcare systems, providing a platform for innovative research, supporting professional development, and improving patient outcomes, the journal would play an instrumental role in advancing both the scientific and clinical aspects of anesthesia and intensive care. As the fields continue to evolve, a new journal would help bridge the gap between international advancements and national and regional healthcare systems' unique needs, allowing a more unified, informed, and collaborative community of practitioners.

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Correspondence:

Tina Tomić Mahečić, MD, PhD
 UHC Zagreb, Department of Anesthesia and Intensive
 Care Medicine, Kišpatićeva 12, Zagreb, Croatia
 e-mail: ttomic@kbc-zagreb.hr