

Exploration of Musculoskeletal Diseases--2025 Annual Report

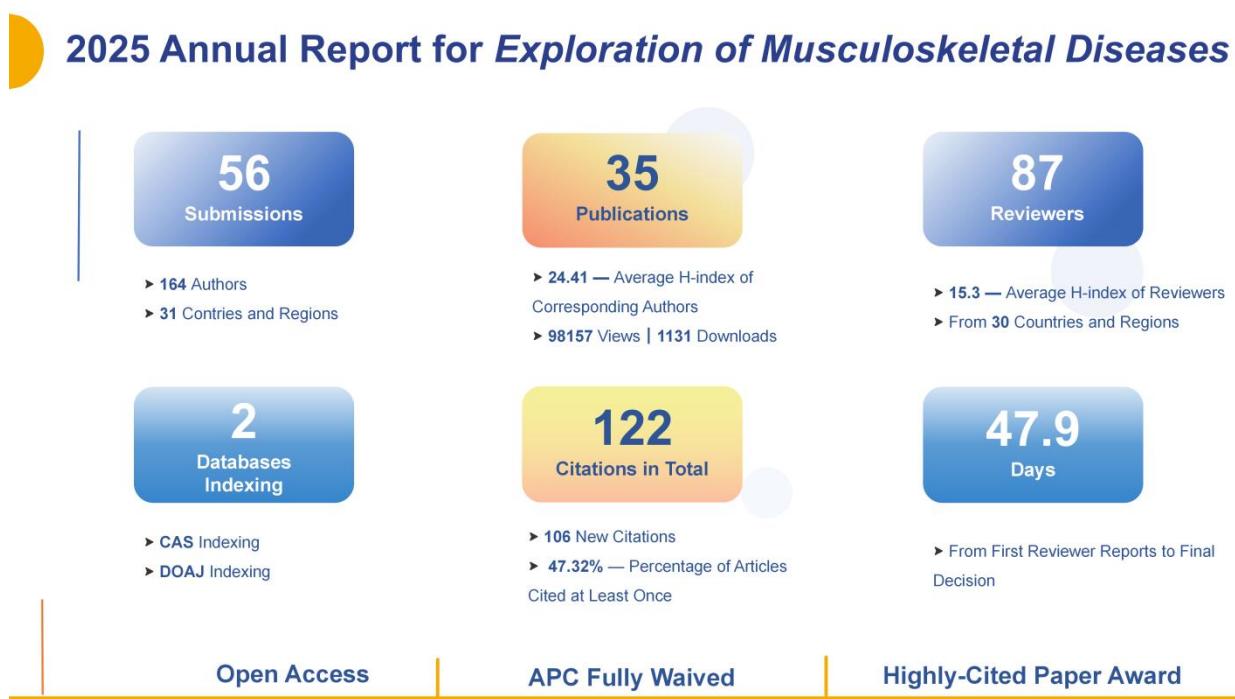


Figure 1. Key Progress in 2025

Letter from Editor-in-Chief

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

It has passed three years since *Exploration of Musculoskeletal Diseases* (EMD) was launched, receiving over two hundred submissions to date. Last year 2025, has consolidated our expectations for rigorous selection, evaluation, and publication of high quality papers, expanding initially from mainly rheumatic diseases to other fields related to musculoskeletal diseases (MSKDs), such as sport and laboral medicine, rehabilitation, and orthopedics.

Further development of EMD for this year 2026 includes appointing to further indexation achievements, evolution to a solid multidisciplinary journal for any pathology or development related to MSKDs, and attracting further interest from readers.

EMD editorial board and editorial team are putting special emphasis in attracting submissions for original investigation both basic and clinical. We are specially interested in new therapeutic targets for inflammatory and immune mediated MSKDs, evaluation of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, including new imaging techniques, along with surgical and physical medicine interventions in MSKDs. We are also supporting integrated and personalized medicine as future roads to future clinical medicine, not forgetting basic science as a pillar to clinical development.



Prof. Fernando Pérez-Ruiz

Figure 2. Letter from Editor-in-Chief

The year 2025 marked an important phase of consolidation and capacity building for the journal. During this year, a key milestone achieved was the journal's inclusion in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), reflecting its commitment to transparent, high-quality open-access publishing and providing a stronger foundation for future development.

In 2025, the journal received contributions from authors around the world. A total of 56 manuscripts were submitted during the year, and 35 articles were published. Over the same period, the journal experienced substantial growth in both article views and downloads, reflecting increasing visibility and readership. In addition, the journal's citations increased by 106 in 2025, with a total citation of 122. On the editorial side, 6 new members joined the Editorial Board during the year. The Editorial Board achieved more comprehensive disciplinary coverage, supporting the journal's broad academic scope.

Looking ahead, we see this as an important stage for the journal to strengthen its academic identity and build momentum for long-term objectives. With continued support from all the contributors, we are confident the journal will progress steadily and achieve further recognition within the community.

Key Progress in 2025

- 56 submissions including 24 reviews and 15 original articles
- 35 published articles with an average H-index of corresponding authors of 24.41
- CAS Indexing and DOAJ Indexing
- 6 new editorial board members
- 106 new citations; 122 total citations
- 98157 views and 1131 downloads

Submissions

In 2025, the journal received a total of 56 submissions, contributed by authors from 31 countries and regions worldwide (Figure 3). Among these submissions, 24 were review articles and 15 were original articles, with additional contributions including case reports, perspectives, etc. The details of manuscript types are shown in Figure 4. In addition, the rejection rate in 2025 was 53.84%.

Country Distribution of EMD Manuscripts in 2025

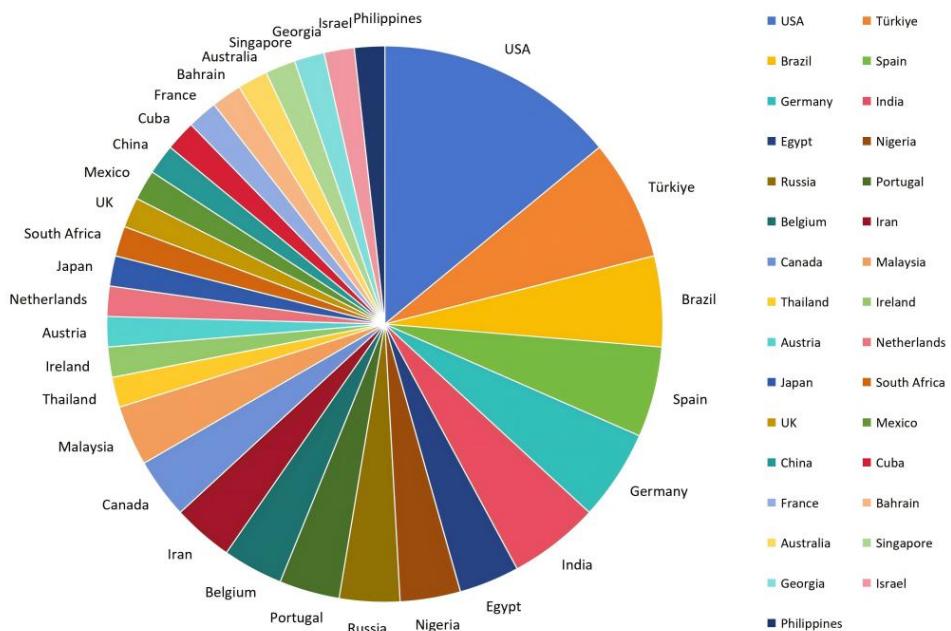


Figure 3. Country Distribution of EMD Manuscripts in 2025

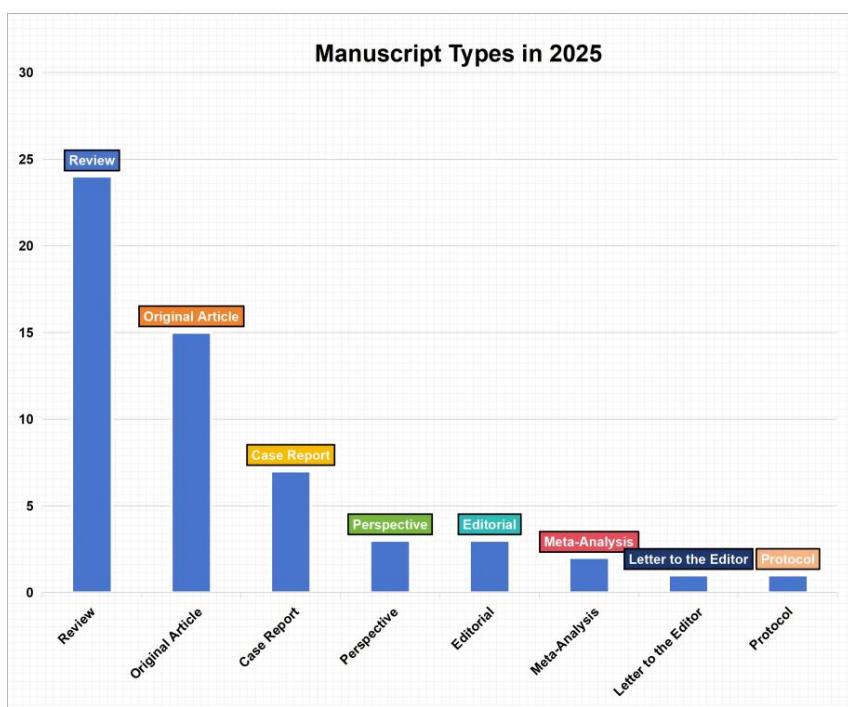


Figure 4. Manuscript Types in 2025

The journal gratefully acknowledges the authors who contributed their manuscripts in 2025. Their submissions, originating from diverse countries and research backgrounds, have provided important scholarly support for the journal's continued development. The journal looks forward to their continued support in the future.

Publications

Supported by the collective efforts of authors, reviewers, and the Editorial Board, the journal published 35 articles in 2025. The published content encompassed review, original research, case reports, commentaries, and other article types. The details of manuscript types are shown in Figure 5.

The major research themes included gout and hyperuricemia, inflammatory arthritis, and systemic rheumatic and autoimmune conditions, addressing topics such as disease mechanisms, clinical manifestations, comorbidities, and therapeutic strategies. Several articles explored diagnostic and monitoring approaches, particularly the application of musculoskeletal imaging techniques (e.g., ultrasound) in disease assessment and management.

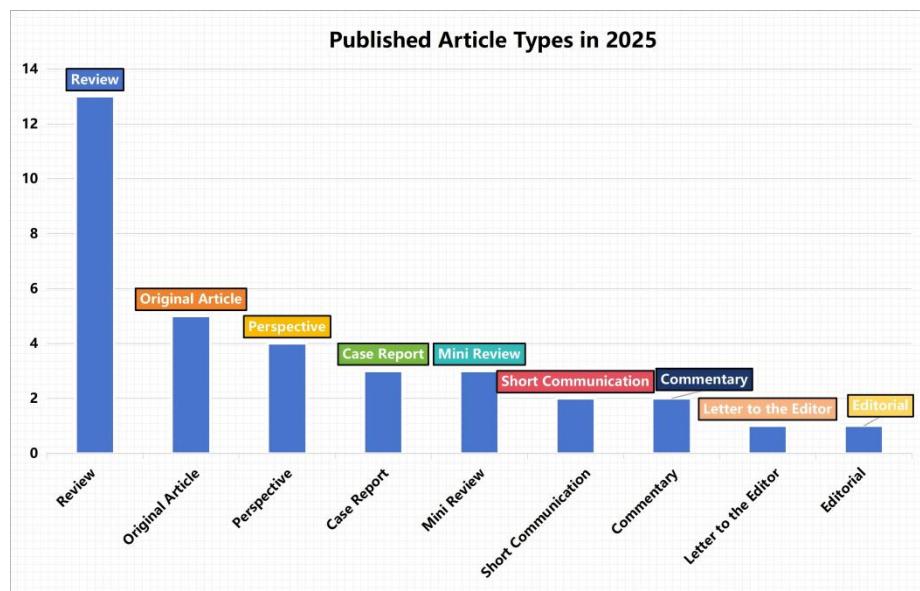


Figure 5. Published Article Types in 2025

Article Metrics

Views and Downloads

2025 witnessed significant increases in both article views and downloads. The average number of article views increased from 1,259.8 in 2024 to 4,393.5 in 2025, while the average number of downloads rose from 26.8 in 2024 to 46.7 in 2025 (Figure 6). Notably, several articles simultaneously exceeded 10,000 views and 100 downloads in 2025.

Average Article Views & Downloads (2024-2025)

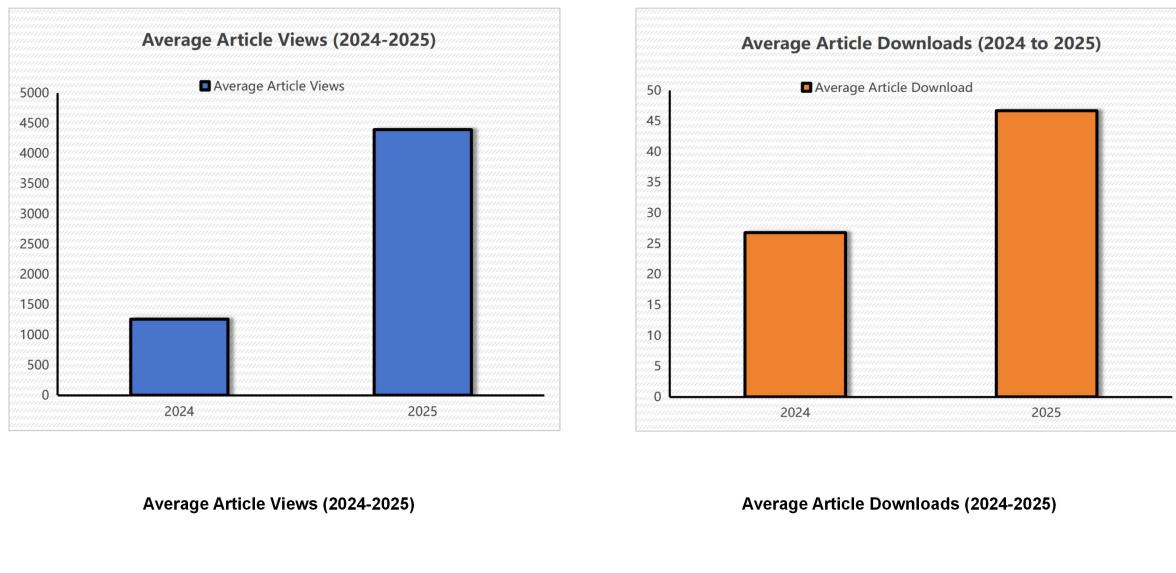


Figure 6. Average Article Views & Downloads (2024-2025)

Popular Articles

Based on download statistics in 2025, 8 articles published during the year demonstrated strong reader engagement. These articles reflect topics of strong interest to the journal's readership and highlight areas of active research engagement. The most downloaded articles published in 2025 are listed below (Table 1).

Table 1. Most downloaded articles published in 2025

Article Title	Publication Date	Views and Downloads
Ultrasound-guided dextrose hydrodissection for multiple peripheral entrapment neuropathies in scleroderma: a case presentation	December 08, 2025	948 Views; 83 Downloads
Optimizing development of anti-TNFα biosimilars based on 10 years' experience	February 08, 2025	5928 Views; 83 Downloads
Quality approaches and standards of 3D printing in orthopedic and traumatological settings: a systematic review	June 16, 2025	5798 Views; 64 Downloads
Musculoskeletal ultrasound in rheumatologic diseases	January 19, 2025	5053 Views; 63 Downloads
Management of gout in advanced renal disease	May 07, 2025	6728 Views; 56 Downloads
The 'FebBenz' approach for severe difficult-to-treat gout	May 22, 2025	2565 Views; 51 Downloads

[Calcium pyrophosphate deposition \(CPPD\) disease: a review of pathophysiology, clinic and diagnosis](#)

August 11, 2025

5072 Views; 47 Downloads

[Chronic pain, fibromyalgia, and long COVID](#)

January 22, 2025

5796 Views; 47 Downloads

Citations

2025 also marked a year of rapid growth in citations for the journal. By the end of 2024, the journal's articles had received a total of 16 citations, whereas by the end of 2025, citations had increased by 106, bringing the cumulative total to 122 citations (Figure 7).

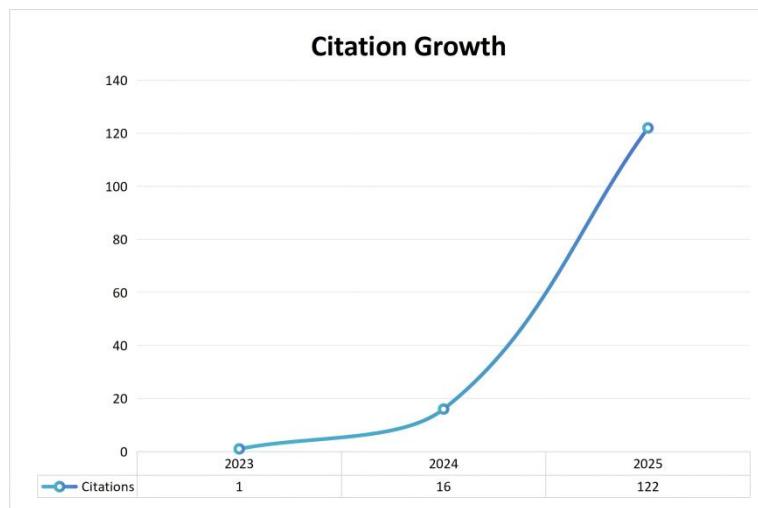


Figure 7. Citation Growth

Manuscript Processing

Manuscript Processing Time

In 2025, the journal continued to maintain a stable and efficient editorial process. The average manuscript processing time remained at a reasonable level, supporting the timely publication of accepted articles. The editorial processing timelines were as follows (Figure 8):

- The average time from submission to initial review was 14.8 days.
- The average time from submission to first decision was 35.9 days.
- The average submission-to-acceptance time was 93.5 days.
- The average acceptance-to-publication time was 24 days.

Average Manuscript Processing Time in 2025



The above data are based on the journal's annual statistics (Unit: days).

Figure 8. Average Manuscript Processing Time in 2025

Reviewers

In 2025, the journal received valuable support from 87 reviewers representing 30 countries and regions (Figure 9), who contributed to the peer review of submitted manuscripts. The average H-index of the reviewers was 15.3. Their timely and constructive evaluations contributed significantly to the efficient handling of manuscripts and the overall quality of published articles.

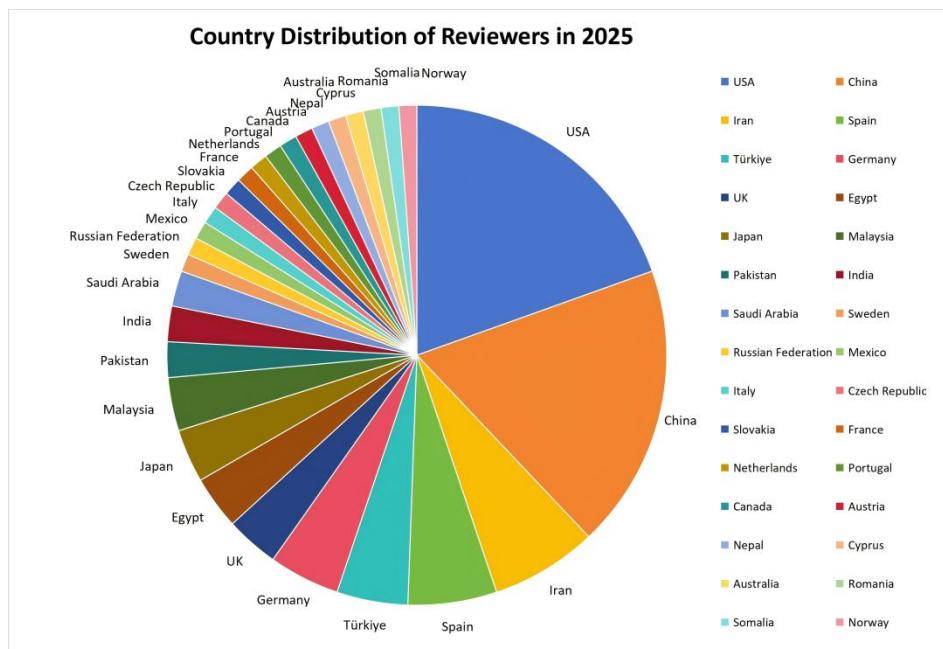


Figure 9. Country Distribution of Reviewers in 2025

Database Indexing

In 2025, the journal achieved important milestone by being indexed in two major databases (Figure 10). On March 27, 2025, EMD was accepted for indexing in Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) database, a globally recognized resource for scientific literature. On July 28, 2025, EMD was accepted for indexing in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), one of the most respected and comprehensive databases for open access journals worldwide.



Figure 10. Database Indexing in 2025

These achievements have marked a major step forward for the journal's international visibility, academic credibility, and commitment to high-quality open access publishing.

Editorial Board

New Board Members

In 2025, six distinguished experts joined the Editorial Board, including 3 Associate Editors and 3 Editorial Board Members, with an average H-index of 32.66. The details shown in Figure 11.

New Editorial Board Members in 2025



Prof. John Mountz
The University of Alabama, USA



Prof. Ashok N. Johari
Childrens Orthopaedic Centre, India



Prof. DongXing Zhu
Guangzhou Medical University, China



Prof. Zahi Touma
University of Toronto, Canada



Dr. Theodoros Soldatos
IASIS Diagnostic Center, Greece



Prof. Fuqiang Gao
China-Japan Friendship Hospital, China

Figure 11. New Editorial Board Members in 2025

Current Editorial Board

As of the end of 2025, the Editorial Board comprises a total of 41 members, with an average H-index of 37.31. Board members represent 20 countries and regions.

Over the past year, our board members have actively contributed to the journal's development by submitting manuscripts, organizing Special Issues, participating in peer review, and providing valuable suggestions for the journal's future development.

Conference Promotion

In 2025, EMD had the opportunity to be presented at EULAR 2025 Congress — the Annual European Congress of Rheumatology, held in Barcelona (Figure 12).

Our editor-in-chief, Prof. Fernando Pérez-Ruiz, attended the meeting and introduced EMD to participating experts and scholars through the distribution of journal flyers. In addition, the Editor-in-Chief also highlighted his original article "[The 'FebBenz' approach for severe difficult-to-treat gout](#)" published in the journal in 2025 during his presentation. For more details, please refer to the news on our website: https://www.explorationpub.com/Journals/emd/News_Letter_Details/124.

Conference Promotion: EMD at EULAR 2025



Prof. Fernando Pérez-Ruiz distributed journal flyers at EULAR 2025



Prof. Fernando Pérez-Ruiz introduced EMD original article at EULAR 2025

Figure 12. EMD at EULAR2025

Journal Development Plan for 2026

Building on the progress achieved in 2025, the journal will continue to focus on strengthening content quality, expanding its academic influence, and improving editorial efficiency in the new year. Particular emphasis will be placed on the launch of high-quality Special Issues and the attraction of strong original research and review articles, with the support of the Editorial Board and the broader research community.

Advancing the journal's indexing strategy will be a central priority in 2026. Building on recent progress, the journal will focus on further strengthening editorial standards, publication quality, and citation performance, while actively preparing the application for inclusion in Scopus as a key milestone in its long-term development plan.

In support of this objective, the journal will continue to enhance its academic visibility and international presence. Targeted promotion through academic conferences, scholarly networks, and digital channels will be pursued to increase the reach, readership, and impact of published articles.

EMD Editorial Office

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Submission Link: <https://emd.aresystem.com/>