

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



With this message, I am delighted to present the inaugural volume of a new scholarly scientific journal: *International Journal of Bone Fragility (IJBF)*, rare and common disorders. *IJBF* is the official journal of the Italian Scientific Society OrtoMed.

The incredible expansion of periodical publications and information technology in recent decades — a development to which the medical sciences have contributed enormously — motivates the question: Why another journal?

Scientific development and growth are not always driven by principles of need. Indeed, the question “Why another journal?” should be answered not only in terms of demand, but also in terms of improvement. Looking at current articles on bone fragility, we find that they derive from quite diverse backgrounds and add up to a multifaceted body of literature scattered across a variety of different specialty journals. This can be problematic for the reader, and this situation in itself is a sufficient reason to justify the birth of a dedicated journal targeting this important area of medicine. The fact is, bone fragility is now a very hot topic, attracting increasing interest from clinicians, the authorities and the pharmaceutical industry. This is another reason for the launch of this journal. Moreover, *IJBF* was envisioned and founded to meet the growing need for information in the specific area of fragility fractures, an emerging and vital field.

International Journal of Bone Fragility is thus a new journal, which aims to find its niche in the already crowded field of scientific journals devoted to osteoporosis and its consequences: bone fragility fractures. *IJBF* is an international peer-reviewed journal with an international board of 32 highly reputed scientists from five countries in three continents. Aimed at researchers in areas ranging from cellular and molecular biology to the most advanced pharmacological and surgical interventions, its mission is to become a voice of “the science” in the field, while also keeping patients very much in mind. Indeed, the journal will also reserve a space for advocacy groups and citizens’ representative bodies.

In accordance with the latest developments in journal publishing, this journal is an Open Access journal and intends to stay this way. The first issue of the journal hosts several research papers in the

field of osteoporosis and fragility fractures. In the first article, U. Tarantino and colleagues review publications on fracture liaison services, which represent a model for continuity in the management of patients affected by fragility fractures. In the paper, the authors discuss in depth the pitfalls regarding the pharmacological treatment of patients who sustain at least one fragile fracture. In the second article, M. Rotini and colleagues address the problem of atypical fractures of the femur in patients chronically treated with aminobisphosphonates. They discuss the phenotype of a clinical case and review the literature in the field.

V. Bottai and colleagues, in the third article (a case report), describe the use of teriparatide to induce bone healing of complicated fractures.

In the fourth article, C. Carulli and colleagues report on the extensive experience of a single centre in surgically treating haemophilic patients with skeletal fractures.

In an original article, B. Pampaloni and colleagues address the problem of low calcium intake in the Italian population. Echoing other contributions in the field, the paper highlights the great and urgent need for education of the general population on the topic of adequate calcium intake.

The sixth paper, by N. Cittadini and colleagues, describes a novel test that can be used by osteoporosis patients to evaluate their self-care maintenance of their bone problems.

Finally, the last article provides an overview of the state of the art in the growing field of biosimilars, an incredibly active area in bone fragility. The pros and cons of the advent of new biosimilar molecules in the therapy of bone fragility are discussed in depth. This issue would not have been possible without the support of the Editorial Board members, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to all of them. We would also like to express our gratitude to the *IJBF* editorial staff at MediMay Communication, in particular to Ferdinando Maggio, who has supported us at every stage of the project.

The contributions to this inaugural issue of *IJBF* provide numerous guideposts and recommendations for improving this important and growing field. It is our hope that this fine collection of articles will be a valuable resource for *IJBF* readers and will stimulate further research into the vibrant area of fragility fractures.

Maria Luisa Brandi MD, PhD
Editor in Chief