



Driving the future of geriatric and musculoskeletal medicine—the continuing ascent of ACER

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The field of geriatrics and gerontology is, in my opinion, undergoing a profound evolution, driven by the global necessity to address multi-morbidity, frailty, and locomotor decline in an aging population. At the forefront of documenting and shaping this scientific discourse is *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research* (ACER). Founded in 1989 by the visionary efforts of Professors Gaetano Crepaldi, Edward J. Masoro, and Luigi Amaducci, the journal was established to bridge the gap between basic aging research and clinical practice. Professor Crepaldi's early leadership infused the journal with a rigorous, multidisciplinary ethos, establishing a critical foundation for geriatric medicine in Europe and beyond. This trajectory of excellence was seamlessly expanded under the long-term stewardship of Professor Stefania Maggi. Her editorial dedication not only solidified ACER's international reputation but also consistently secured its position within the competitive second quartile of the Clarivate Geriatrics & Gerontology indexing category. This rich legacy of scientific stewardship laid the groundwork for a pivotal milestone in 2019, when ACER officially transitioned to become the flagship journal of the European Society for Clinical and Economic Aspects of Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases (ESCEO).

As we look forward, the newly released 2025 bibliometric data underscores a remarkable period of growth and elevated academic influence for the journal. In an era where clinical researchers must choose their publication venues with immense care, ACER has demonstrated an exceptional

upward trajectory. In this regard, ACER needs only a few days to take a decision about a paper, actually one week. The journal's 2025 Impact Factor has risen to an unprecedented 4.7. This milestone marks a major leap forward from the steady 3.4 impact factor recorded in both 2023 and 2024. This surge is a direct reflection of the high citation density of papers published by our community; specifically, 506 citable items published across 2023 and 2024 accumulated an impressive total of 2,377 citations in 2025 alone. This unexpected finding was also promoted by the initiative of Springer about the fully open access model that further promoted the visibility of our journal in the world. Indirect evidence that fully open access model was the right choice for our journal is the number of downloads during 2025, estimated in more than 2 million.

This bibliometric advancement is further illustrated by the journal's dramatic rise in category percentile rankings. While ACER maintained a stable presence in the field with a 57.4% percentile rank in 2023 and 55.5% in 2024, the 2025 data flatten any plateau, propelling the journal to a 72.9% JIF percentile. Out of 72 indexed journals in the global Geriatrics & Gerontology category, ACER now proudly stands at rank 20, proudly overcoming some historical journal in the field. This substantial climb underscores the expanding reach, visibility, and authority of the research we publish.

To maintain this momentum and best serve our global community of authors and readers, the editorial board remains committed to a highly focused, streamlined communication and operational strategy. In particular, the strategic support of ESCEO is another aspect to be discussed for several reasons. First, if we check the most cited articles of the journal, many of them were written by ESCEO member and supported by the ESCEO. Second, the same ESCEO recently opens several article collections about healthy ageing that are now receiving important contributions and that are open to submission. In this regard, we believe that while maintaining its comprehensive geriatric roots, ACER has successfully carved out an invaluable niche. It is proudly

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recognized across the global scientific landscape as “The other musculoskeletal journal”. This positioning makes it the premier, dedicated destination for high-impact research intersecting geriatric giants such as sarcopenia, frailty, osteoporosis, and bone health in older adults.

We extend our deepest congratulations and gratitude to our authors, reviewers, and editorial colleagues who have contributed to this landmark success, with a particular thank to dr. Fiona Ecartot and the Associate Editors who works, every day, for the journal. Together, we will continue to position ACER as an indispensable pillar of musculoskeletal and geriatric science.

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