E D I T O R I A L

Vojnosanitetski pregled in 2026 – new challenges, same dreams

Vojnosanitetski pregled u 2026 – novi izazovi, isti snovi

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In line with long-established practice, the editorial published in the first issue of each volume of *Vojnosanitetski pregled* (VSP) provides a comprehensive overview of the activities of the Editorial Board (EB) and Editorial Office (EO) over the past year and outlines plans for the year ahead. The analysis includes both manuscripts submitted in 2025 and articles published during the same period.

Consistent with previous years, the manuscripts submitted in 2025 covered a broad range of research topics in clinical and experimental medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy. In 2025, a total of 277 manuscripts were received, slightly fewer than in 2024 (15 manuscripts fewer). Analyzing the period from 2020 to 2025, excluding 2023 when 226 manuscripts were submitted, it can be seen that the number of manuscripts received in 2025 remains comparable to the levels observed in 2020, 2021, and 2022, with 280, 278, and 265 manuscripts, respectively. As expected, Original Articles represented the largest category of submissions (205 or 74.0%), followed by Case Reports (32 or 11.6%) (Table 1).

The analysis of authors' institutional affiliations showed that 88.8% of submissions came from civilian health and academic institutions, whereas 11.2% were affiliated with the University of Defence in Belgrade, Serbia. Among the manuscripts submitted by civilian institutions, the proportion involving international authors increased from 46.5% in 2024 to 62.9% in 2025. We are particularly encouraged by the participation of international authors, with submissions coming from 10 countries across both our region and more distant parts of the world: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, India, Iran, Montenegro, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, and Turkey (listed in alphabetical order). We sincerely appreciate the trust these authors have placed in our journal, with particular acknowledgment of submissions from China and Turkey, which accounted for the largest proportions of international

Table 1

**Categories and the number of manuscripts submitted
to the *Vojnosanitetski Pregled* in 2025**

Category	n (%)
Original Article	205 (74.0)
Case Report	32 (11.6)
Current Topic	17 (6.1)
General Review	5 (1.8)
History of Medicine	5 (1.8)
Short Communication	5 (1.8)
Meta-analysis	4 (1.4)
Editorial	2 (0.7)
Letter to the Editor	1 (0.4)
Scientific Meeting Report	1 (0.4)
Total	277 (100)

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contributions (China 30.6%, Turkey 12.9%). What is particularly encouraging is that the proportion of papers submitted by authors from abroad has shown a steady increase over the past few years, reflecting the growing interest of the international scientific community in our journal. We hope this trend will continue in the future, contributing further to the international visibility and recognition of VSP.

During the pre-review stage, 55.5% of manuscripts were declined, while 44.5% progressed to the peer-review process. The proportion of manuscripts rejected at the pre-review stage increased slightly compared with 49.1% in 2024, reflecting the application of more rigorous editorial criteria. Among those that underwent the peer-review process, up to December 31, 2025, 44.8% were accepted for publication after the required revisions, and 21.0% were rejected. The remaining 34.2% are still under review. These percentages are consistent with those reported in the previous year.

The total number of articles undergoing the DOI assignment process in 2025 (including those submitted prior to 2025) was 84, slightly lower than in 2024 (92 articles). Extended review periods, longer than desired, directly affected the time to decision on manuscript status (accepted or rejected) and contributed to the lower number of articles published in 2025. The average time from submission to acceptance (after two positive reviews) or rejection (after two negative reviews) for manuscripts submitted during 2025 was 86 and 113 days, respectively. The average time to receive a DOI for manuscripts submitted and accepted for publication during 2025 was 137 days.

One factor contributing to the lower number of manuscripts entering the DOI assignment process and the reduced number of publications in 2025 was the withdrawal of manuscripts by authors after receiving conditionally positive or positive peer reviews. This behavior likely reflects attempts to submit manuscripts, whose quality was substantially improved by the suggestions of the VSP reviewers, to journals with a higher impact factor (IF). Addressing this issue will be a priority for the EB to ensure that VSP's peer-review resources are used to the fullest benefit of VSP.

In 2025, a total of 92 articles were published, including one Scientific Meeting Report (Table 2), slightly fewer than the 102 articles published in 2024. One of the factors contributing to this decrease may be a higher rejection rate at the pre-review stage, as well as the previously mentioned phenomenon of manuscript withdrawal after authors received conditionally positive or positive peer reviews. During 2025, a total of eight manuscripts were withdrawn at this stage.

As in previous years, the majority of published articles fell into the categories of Original Articles (66 or 71.7%) and Case Reports (15 or 16.3%), with numbers almost identical to those in 2024.

Considering the authors' affiliations, an analysis of the published articles showed that the majority of authors were from civilian institutions, both domestic and international (81.6%), of which approximately 36.2% were from abroad, followed by authors from the University of Defence in Belgrade (18.0%). These proportions were roughly the same as in 2024. However, the number of published papers by foreign authors increased by 13.7% compared to 2024. This increase was expected, reflecting both the higher influx of submissions from international authors and the greater number of their manuscripts entering the peer-review process.

We sincerely thank all authors who have chosen VSP to present their research findings, with special acknowledgment to our international contributors. Your work is essential in promoting the journal's visibility and impact. We look forward to your continued contributions in further strengthening VSP's role within the scientific community.

According to the Center for Evaluation in Education and Science database, which provides full-text access to articles published in VSP, a total of 38,147 full-text downloads were recorded in 2025, of which 2,036 corresponded to articles published in 2025. The article with the highest number of downloads (86) was *Association between C-reactive protein-albumin-lymphocyte (CALLY) index and cerebral edema in acute ischemic stroke patients* (DOI: https://doi.org/10.2298/VSP240625086O).

According to the EBSCO database, VSP articles were accessed over 54,370 times in 2025 by 2,003 different universities, colleges, libraries, and other

Table 2

Categories and the number of articles published in the *Vojnosanitetski Pregled* in 2025

Category	n (%)
Original Article	66 (71.7)
Case Report	15 (16.3)
History of Medicine	3 (3.3)
Meta-analysis	2 (2.2)
Editorial	2 (2.2)
General Review	1 (1.1)
Current Topic	1 (1.1)
Short Communication	1 (1.1)
Scientific Meeting Report	1 (1.1)
Total	92 (100)

institutions worldwide. Pukyong National University (South Korea) and Ajman University (United Arab Emirates) ranked first and second, with 7,406 and 5,833 downloads, respectively. Notably, the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg (Germany), one of Europe's leading scientific institutions, increased its number of downloads from our journal from 1,475 in the previous year to 5,141 in 2025. VSP articles published in 2025 were downloaded 1,937 times, representing a twofold decrease compared with the previous year. The observed reduction may be explained, at least partially, by the smaller number of articles published in 2025. The article with the highest number of downloads (92) was *Deficits in naming and auditory comprehension of terms in individuals with vascular dementia* (DOI: https://doi.org/10.2298/VSP240406081V). As noted above, article downloads in 2025 were lower than in 2024, which is a cause for concern. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that VSP articles were read a total of 4,372 times, representing an increase of more than 440 compared with the previous year, when 3,930 reads were recorded, and provides strong motivation for further improvements in the journal's accessibility and visibility.

The IF of VSP for 2024 remained unchanged from the previous year (2023) at 0.2. As increasing the IF is one of the journal's key goals, the EB has continued to apply a rigorous selection process for manuscripts entering the review phase. The focus is on papers that, due to their quality and significance, can attract the attention of the scientific community and therefore have a high potential for citations. Achieving this goal requires the continuous and active engagement of all members of the EB. Equally important is the careful selection of reviewers who are experts in their respective fields and willing to dedicate the necessary time and expertise. As an encouraging sign that the EB is moving in the right direction, we note the increase in the 5-year IF from 0.2 to 0.3, reported in July 2025.

In 2025, the contributions of 222 reviewers (Table 3) were invaluable to our work, and we are deeply grateful to all of them. We would like to give special recognition to Professors Čvorović Ljiljana, Dedić Gordana, Đukanović Ljubica, Kezić Aleksandra, Lepić Milan, Mikić Dragan, Nožić Darko, Rasulić Lukas, Resan Mirko, Stanojević Ivan, Šuljagić Vesna, Tomić Aleksandar, and Vidaković Aleksandra (listed in alphabetical order), each of whom reviewed at least three manuscripts in 2025.

Table 3

Reviewers of the *Vojnosanitetski pregled* in 2025

Abbasoglu Osman	Ćupurdija Vojislav	Gajić Selena	Jovanović Bogdan
Aleksandrić Srdjan		Gašić Jugoslav	Jovanović Milan
Aleksić Aleksandra	Damjanov Ivan	Golubović Jagoš	Jovanović Simić Jelena
Asmis Lars	Davidović Lazar	Grubović Rastvorčeva Rada	Jovanović Predrag
Atanasijević Igor	de Carvalho Dornelas Bruno	Guzina Golac Nataša	Jovanović Vanja
			Jovičić Žikica
Babić Srdjan	Dedić Gordana	Horvat Olga	Jović Zoran
Babić Uroš	Demetriades Andreas	Hossein Rezvani Mohammad	
Bajčetić Milica	Dimić Andreja		Kačar Aleksandra
Bajkin Branislav	Dimitrijević Zorica	Hoveyan Julieta	Kareem Mohammed Ahmed
Baljošević Ivan	Dinčić Evica		Karličić Vukoica
Bančević Vladimir	Dinić Miroslav	Ignjatović Mile	Kezić Aleksandra
Basta Nikolić Marijana	Dragić Milorad	Ilić Jugoslav	Knežević-Ušaj Slavica
Baščarević Vladimir	Dragović Tamara	Ilić Tanja	Kopitović Ivan
Biočanin Vladimir	Drobac Milan	Ilić Tihomir	Kostić Milena
Bižić Marta		Ivanov Milan	Kostić Smiljana
Bodrožić Jelena	Djokić Jelena		Kovačević Božidar
Bojović Marko	Djordjević Dragan	Jahić Azra	Kozomara Ružica
Bošković Aneta	Djordjević Olivera	Jakšić Vesna	Krasić Dragan
Brajušković Goran	Djukanović Ljubica	Janković Slobodan	Krejović Sanja
Brković Voin	Djukanović Marija	Janković Srdja	Kuzmanović Miloš
Bubalo Marija	Djukić Slobodanka	Janković Veličković Ljubinka	
Budić Ivana	Djurić Ivica	Jauković Ljiljana	
	Djurić Predrag	Jianu Dragos Catalin	Lance Marcus D.
Cancrini Fabiana		Jocić Miodrag	Lazarević Simović Snežana
Cvetković Gordana	Eri Živka	Jotić Ana	Lepić Milan
		Jovančević Ljiljana	Liu Qiquan
Čanadanović Vladimir	Filipović Nenad	Jovanikić Olivera	Lučić Miloš
Čvorović Ljiljana	Filipović Tamara	Jovanović Ankica	Lukić Milica

Table 3 (continued)

Mandić Rajčević Stefan	Nastasović Tijana	Radulović Nataša	Stojimirović Biljana
Manojlović Nebojša	Nešković Mihailo	Rajević Milica	Stojković Goran
Marić Nebojša	Nešković Vojislava	Rakić Mia	Stojšić Mirjana
Marinković Dejan	Nikolić Aleksandra	Ramdaniati Sri	
Marjanović Ivan	Nikolić Jakoba Nataša	Ranković Aleksandar	Šarac Sanja
Marković Aleksa	Nikolić Ratko Jelena	Rasulić Lukas	Šuljagić Vesna
Matić Milan	Nikolić Ljubiša	Rašić Dejan	Šurbatović Maja
Matijašević Jovan	Ninković Milica	Rašković Aleksandar	
Matijević Stevo	Novaković Nenad	Ratinac Miloš	Tamamyan Gevorg
Mavija Milka	Novković Mirjana	Resan Mirko	Tanasković Slobodan
Mijajlović Milija	Nožić Darko	Ristić Andjelka	Tepšić Ostojić Vesna
Mijatović Jovin Vesna		Ristivojević Bojan	Tiodorović Danica
Mikić Dragan	Obradović Radmila	Roganović Branka	Todorović Ljubomir
Milanović Borko	Obradović Slobodan	Rondović Goran	Todorović Zoran
Milenković Branislava			Tomić Aleksandar
Milijašević Boris	Paripović Dušan	Samardžić Janko	Trbojević Stanković Jasna
Milivojević Vladimir	Pasternak Janko	Savić Slobodan	Trifunović Miroljub
Milojević Andjela	Pavić Ognjen	Slović Živana	
Milosavljević Marko	Pavličević Goran	Sotirović Jelena	Vasović Dolika
Milosavljević Miloš	Pavlović Sonja	Sovtić Aleksandar	Veličković Radovanović Radmila
Milošević Nikola	Pejčić Ana	Spasojević Brankica	Vezmar Kovačević Sandra
Milovanović Dragan	Petković Djurić Danijela	Spiroski Dejan	Vidaković Aleksandra
Milovanović Zagorka	Petković Stojan	Srzentić Snežana	Vlahović Dmitar
Miljić Predrag	Petronijević Nataša	Stamenković Dragoslav	Vujašković Mirjana
Minić Predrag	Petrović Vladimir	Stanić Tišma Dragana	Vuković Jelena
Mirković Ljiljana	Pham Khanh Trinh Quoc	Stankov Karmen	
Mirković Nikola	Polovina Snežana	Stanković Ivan	Zdravković Nebojša
Mirošević Nikica	Poulia Kalliopi Anna	Stanković Nebojša	Zeba Snježana
Mišović Miroslav		Stanković Nikola	Zlatanović Dragan
Mladenović Zorica	Radević Svetlana	Stanojević Ivan	Zlatanović Petar
Momčilović Antić Ana	Radić Milica	Stepanović Aleksandar	
	Radoičić Dragan	Stepić Nenad	
Nale Djordje	Radosavljević Aleksandra	Stevanović Dejan	Živković Slavoljub

Considering VSP's current IF and the fact that authors naturally tend to submit their most significant research to higher-impact journals, it is understandable that VSP may not always be their first choice. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the EB to encourage and motivate domestic authors to submit their most important research to VSP, helping to sustain and strengthen the journal's position on the SCI list. Members of the EB can, by recommending experts in relevant fields who respect the deadlines for manuscript evaluation, contribute to shortening the time to a final decision on manuscripts and also increase authors' interest in VSP. We would like to warmly thank all editors who, during 2025, made extra efforts to bring such experts onto VSP's reviewer team.

During 2025, the EO faced organizational challenges, as a result of which the preparation of manuscripts that, following two positive reviews, were accepted for publication and entered the DOI assignment process was slower than planned. Nevertheless, the planned publication schedule was fully maintained, and all 12 issues of the journal were published on a monthly basis. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the EO, whose dedication and professional commitment ensured the timely publication of each issue.

We also gratefully acknowledge the continued support of the Publisher's Advisory Board of VSP, whose willingness to assist the editorial team and the EO has been of great importance.

Entering the new year provides an opportunity to express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all our collaborators who, although not members of the EB or the EO, consistently support the journal through their professionalism, dedication, and long-standing commitment. We extend our special thanks to Ms. Aleksandra Kužet (National Library of Serbia, Department of Scientific Information) and Mr. Nebojša Krstić (Neolibris DOO) for their invaluable and ongoing contributions to the journal. Their support in 2025, as well as throughout previous years, has been an important source of stability, reliability, and reassurance for us.

Last year, we were not able to accomplish everything we had planned. Therefore, we see 2026 as a new opportunity to continue what we have started. Our established plans continue to guide us, while our ultimate

goal remains the improvement of the journal's quality, relevance, and reputation within the scientific community.

At the beginning of the new year, we wish all authors, readers, reviewers, editors, and collaborators good health, personal happiness, and professional success. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and hope that 2026 will bring even greater achievements and satisfaction for all of us.