

WHAT CAN MEDICAL JOURNAL EDITORS DO IT IN WAR?

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About *Croatian Medical Journal* (CMJ)? – 1

- CMJ was established in 1991. by Matko and Ana Marušić, at that time professors at Zagreb University School of Medicine.
- They voluntarily functioned as Journal's co-Editors in Chief.
- Matko Marušć resigned in 2009, and Ana Marušić in 2011.



About Croatian Medical Journal (CMJ)? – 2

- CMJ became indexed in *Current Contents* in 1998, and in *Medline* 1999.
- Ana Marušić served as:
 - President of the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)
 - President of the Council of Science Editors (CSE)
 - President of European Association of Science Editors (EASE)
 - Member of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)



The war

- With the fall of communism, Yugoslavia was transformed into 6 independent republics.
- Republic of Serbia opposed independence of other republics and attacked Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1991, and in the latter two the aggression lasted until 1995.
- This war for independence, Croats call The Homeland War.

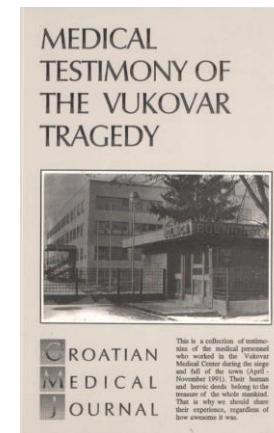
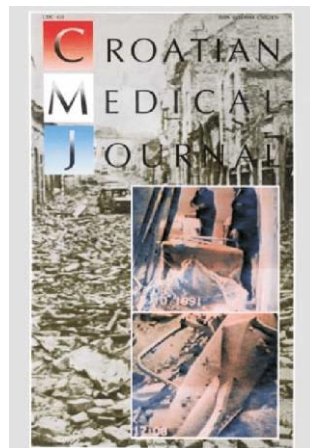


Editors' idea

- Second World War has been burdened with innumerable lies which portrayed Tito's communists (Partisans) as the just liberators, and Croats as guilty for 90-99% of made-up war atrocities.
- Scientific historic analysis performed as late as 1990-ties indicated the opposite.
- The Editors of CMJ thus decided to **research, analyze and publish war-related events** within the wide frame of medicine and public health.

Overall result of the war-medicine related research promoted by Croatian Medical Journal editors

- Ana and Matko Marušić, professors at University of Zagreb School of Medicine and co-editors of Croatian Medical Journal
- helped Croatian physicians involved in military medicine to publish **172 articles in international and 188 articles in Croatian journals** (majority in Croatian Medical Journal); **total around 360, as well as 9 books** (all in English).



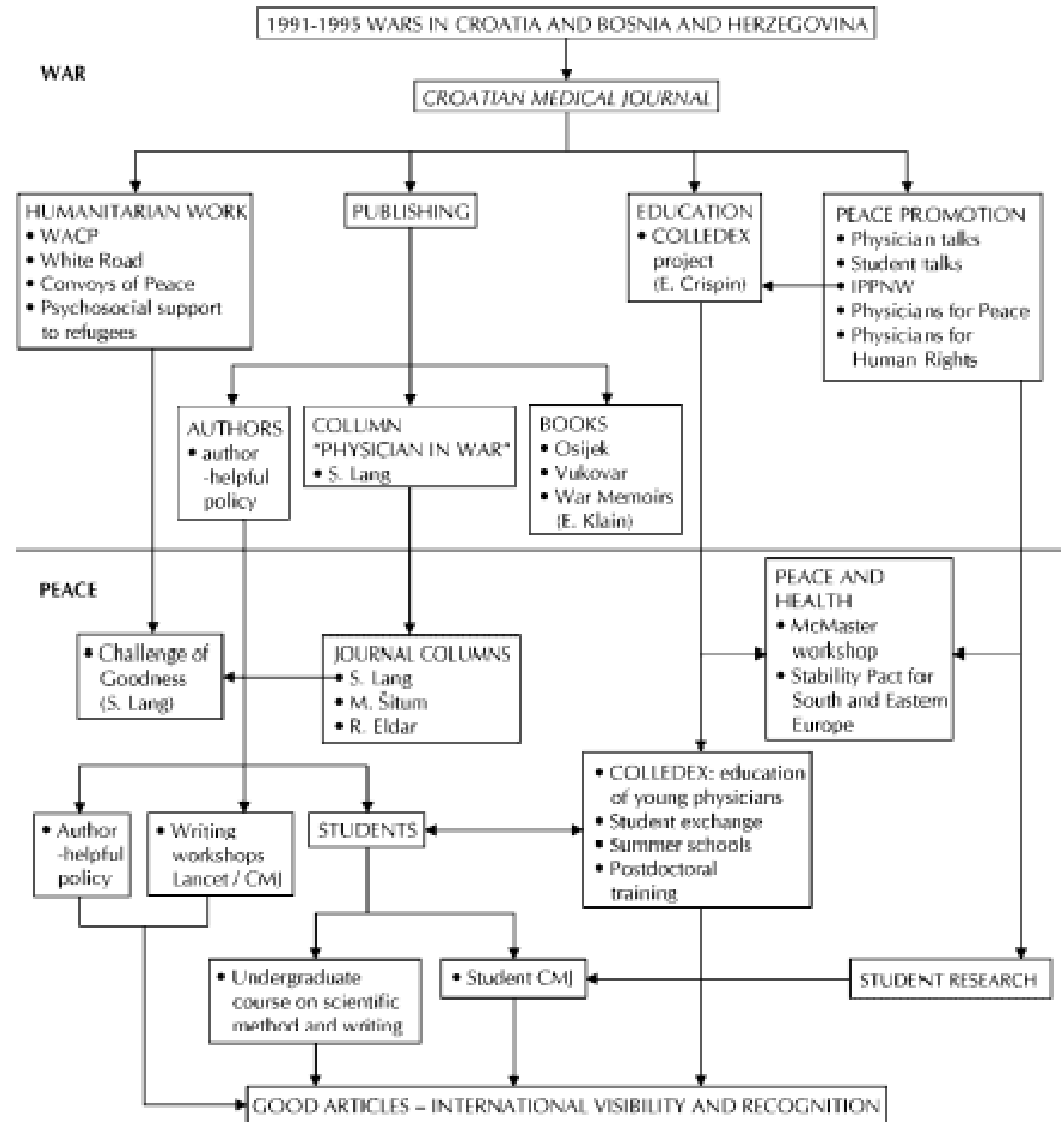
How we did it – 1

- First, we decided to publish war-related articles. This has to be said because some members of the Editorial Board were against it. Their argument was: „We are a science journal (implying „not political”).”
- However, military medicine and especially war-related public health are scientific subjects of utmost importance.

How we did it – 2

- We approached physicians and other health professionals in war zone and on battlefronts.
- They were happy for this attention and cooperated wholeheartedly.
- Through this phase of the work, we realized that they
 - a) know their profession,
 - b) love it, but
 - c) do not know the importance of publishing, and,
 - d) did not know the publishing process.

How we did it – 3



„Secondary result” - general

- Author helpful editorial policy
- Workshops
- Development of an obligatory course on research teaching
- Peace promotion
- Humanitarian work
- Psychosocial assistance to refugees
- Student CMJ and student research promotion

„Secondary result” – war physicians authors

- Those physicians whom the CMJ editors helped during the war, after the war:
 - published more,
 - were cited more,
 - advanced significantly higher in their careers.
- Marušić M, Markulin H, Lukić IK, Marušić A. Academic advancement of authors receiving tutoring from a medical journal. Teach Learn Med. 2006;18(2):126-9.

„Secondary result” – editors

- Marušić A, Marušić M. Croatian Medical Journal and the war. **The National Medical Journal of India**. 1998;11:190-2.
- Marušić A, Marušić M. What can medical journal editors do in war? **The Lancet**. 2002;360 Suppl: s59.
- Marušić A, Marušić M. Clinical teaching in a time of war. **Clinical Teacher**. 2004;1:19-22.
- Marušić A, Marušić M. When a disaster strikes: two editors in war. **Med J Aust**. 2012;197(2):118-20.
- Marušić A, Marušić M. Teaching students how to read and write science: a mandatory course on scientific research and communication in medicine. **Acad Med**. 2003;78:1235-9.

„Secondary result” – special achievements

- **Important book**, published on December 10, 1991 (Vukovar fell on November 18, 1991)

Marušić M, editor. **Medical Testimony of the Vukovar Tragedy**. Zagreb: Croatian Medical Journal, 1991.

- **Students of medicine in war**

Glunčić I, Pulanić D, Prka M, Marušić A, Marušić M. **Curricular and extracurricular activities of medical students during war**, Zagreb University School of Medicine, 1991-1995. **Acad Med**. 2001;76:82-7.

- **Novel editorial policy**

Marušić M, Marušić A. Good editorial practice: **editors as educators**. **Croat Med J**. 2001;42:113-20.

After the war – new authors

17hr CMJ course on planing and writing research:

- 3-9 years after the course 243 participants published more than the 243 non-participants:

Šimić J, Marušić M, Gelo M, Šaravanja N, Mišak A, Marušić A. Long-term outcomes of two-day training on planning and writing research on publication output of medical professionals: 11-year cohort study. **Learned publishing**. 2021;34:666–674.

The first CMJ workshop, with the editor in chief of The Lancet, Split



New: course, journal, action!

- **Obligatory course** in Croatian Medical schools:

Marušić A, Malički M, Sambunjak D, Jerončić, Marušić M. **Teaching science throughout the six-year medical curriculum:** Two-year experience from the University of Split School of Medicine, Split, Croatia. *Acta Medica Academica*. 2014;43(1):50-62.

- **Overlay journal for students:**

Marušić M. **ST-OPEN is an overlay+ journal.** *ST-OPEN*. 2020; 1: e2020.1919.1.

- **Helping Ukraine physicians:**

Sapunar D, Puljak L. Giving Voice project – **helping authors publish reports about the consequences of the War in Ukraine.** *ST-OPEN*. 2023; 4: e2023.2319.10.

Thank you.

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