

Editorial

The development of special theme issues and the POSEIDO Forum Civitatis: OASIS, PACT, ISAIAS, APOLLO, CRONOS, or a new approach to transdisciplinarity

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The POSEIDO (Periodontology, Oral Surgery, Esthetic & Implant Dentistry Open) journal is now finishing its second year of successful existence as a new concept of inter-academic collaborative publishing platform [1]. The journey of the POSEIDO Community is only beginning, and many efforts are still needed to reach our vision and objectives, but these 2 first years allowed use to build the general skeleton of the POSEIDO environment, to illustrate the expected functioning of this platform, and also to launch the development of many working groups and collaborative projects, particularly a first series of Forum termed Forum Civitatis (in Latin, the “Forum of the City” literally, i.e. a platform of discussion and cooperation for our Community of Experts). On all these aspects, we can already gather a few observations and comments from these 2 years of activity.

1. Special themes, but each issue opened to all submissions

As it was initially stated, the first POSEIDO journal is not a mass publication journal, but a specialized theme journal [1]. One important characteristic of POSEIDO is the wish to create a platform of discussion and cooperation, to promote real international debates and sometimes consensus in the POSEID (Periodontology, Oral Surgery, Esthetic & Implant Dentistry) disciplines [2]. To reach this objective, a special theme is allocated to each issue of the journal, in order to regroup articles on a specific aspect of clinical or basic research and try to develop joint discussion and consensus articles.

This concept was designed for educational purposes, as the international scientific literature is growing extensively and data are more and more difficult to sort and interpret for the general readership, even for specialists, what leaves most publications with a very

limited real impact. By gathering articles around a theme and try to reach a consensus or at least a debate around this theme, the journal becomes more reader-friendly, and therefore more interesting and useful for our wide readership. We shall never forget that a scientific publication is first of all designed to serve a Community - in the case of POSEIDO, it is particularly a wide Community of oral and maxillofacial clinicians and basic researchers. The biggest success for a journal nowadays, it is to interest its readers and, in short, to be read extensively and kept precious as a real source of knowledge. The special themes are therefore an interesting method to reach these educational and clear communication objectives.

The development of special themes in each issue is, however, only a complementary strategy, and shall not be considered as a mandatory style of the Journal. This notion of special theme was sometimes understood as a limitation for submission. Many authors hesitated to submit their articles on different topics than the special themes, believing that they would not fit the profile of the journal. In reality, the journal is opened to all submissions, whatever the topic. If the Editors try to regroup the items in thematic issues, this is not a mandatory characteristic and independent articles can be published without limitations as long as they can interest our readership and bring interesting information.

Moreover, authors and research group members of the POSEIDO network are welcome to submit proposals of theme issues and suggestions of publications. The board of the journal will review all proposals carefully and openly, and motivated initiatives will always be appreciated. The functioning of POSEIDO is very flexible and adjusted to merits and timely initiatives. All authors are welcome to participate to this effort, and they will only be considered based on their work and scientific skills, with a special expectation on creativity and innovation.

In summary, if you have something interesting to publish, please do not hesitate to submit to the POSEIDO Journal, whatever the upcoming special themes.

2. The Forum Civitatis, a platform for transdisciplinarity

The concept of Special Theme was completed by another method of gathering of thematic knowledge, with a particular emphasis on transdisciplinarity and translational research. The knowledge that interests the POSEIDO diverse readership cannot be limited to clinical techniques or evaluation of materials in the oral field, as many aspects of the daily practice are in fact interconnected with other disciplines, particularly medical sciences (plastic surgery, orthopedics, oncology, etc.), engineering or education. This transdisciplinarity and translational approach are often needed to understand correctly some key parameters of the oral disciplines, but no integrated platform of cooperation and debate existed previously. This is why the notion of Special Theme was completed by the concept of Forum Civitatis.

The Forum Civitatis - or Forum of the City, our Community of Colleagues - is regrouping several platforms of exchange and debates, under the form of wide communities or smaller working groups for Experts, with the idea to develop new ideas and concepts in various aspects of the POSEID disciplines and to promote it through education and research. These forums are clearly identifiable through their own logo, following the general style and color scheme of the POSEIDO Forum Civitatis Communities (**Figure**). Each logo presents clear specificities and symbols reflecting the theme of each Community and the spelling of the acronym is always indicated. These icons were designed to be easily identifiable and to

complete or replace the traditional POSEIDO stamp when journal issues or documents are prepared by these Communities.

Three Forum entities are currently active: OASIS, PACT and ISAIAS. In 2014, each issue of the journal was connected to one of these forums, with the publication of a series of articles on their respective field, both creating a Founding issue for each of these Communities and illustrating their theme and functioning. These 3 first Forums cover some very interesting specialized aspects of the POSEID disciplines: the development of international standards, the research in regenerative medicine and internationalization of higher education. Two other Forums are activated to complete this interesting set of working groups: APOLLO and CRONOS.



Figure. Logos of the 3 first active Forums Civitatis, OASIS, PACT and ISAIAS. Each logo follows the general style and color scheme of the POSEIDO Forum Civitatis Communities, and is easily identifiable through specificities and symbols reflecting the theme of each Community, and with the spelling of the acronym.

2.1. The OASIS Forum Civitatis

The OASIS Forum (Open-Access Standards for Implantable Systems) is an international informal working group gathering scientific Experts (particularly ISO Experts of the ISO/TC106/Dentistry commissions), in order to develop new international standards for implantable systems and to promote their use in our professional community. The objectives of the Forum are interconnected:

- to facilitate the global cooperation between Experts in implantable systems, in order: to propose, develop, discuss and finally submit projects of standards all together in synergy; to allow a faster and more efficient development and application of new standards without delays;
- to support international scientific collaborations between the Experts, in order to discuss and gather experimental data to support accurate experimentally-driven and validated standards;
- to promote interactions between the Experts and the community of professionals through the POSEIDO network, to develop timely projects and to educate colleagues and practitioners about new standards.

The OASIS Forum has been designed and funded by the POSEIDO Foundation in order to remain completely independent from the commercial pressures and lobbying. The resources of the Foundation can be allocated by the Board of Directors in the form of research grants for the development of outstanding projects of standards.

The first issue of 2014 (Volume 2, Issue 1) was the first OASIS issue of the POSEIDO Journal and focused on a first open-access standard for Implant Surface Identification (ISI)[3]. This massive work was published in a series of articles prepared by an international panel of Experts, and is a good example of extensive data the OASIS Consortium is able to gather for the POSEIDO readership.

2.2. The PACT Forum Civitatis

The PACT Forum (Platelet & Advanced Cell Therapies) is an international research and education scientific community in the field of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, interested in various forms of cell therapies, particularly stem cell research and platelet concentrates for surgical or infiltrative use (Leukocyte- and Platelet-Rich Plasma L-PRP and Leukocyte- and Platelet-Rich Fibrin L-PRF)[4].

The concept of this community is to promote international debates and translational and transversal research, i.e. from the basic science research to the clinical applications (translational) and between the many disciplines involved in this wide field of research (transversal). Transdisciplinarity - as a research strategy crossing discipline boundaries to create a holistic approach - is the key to reach common consensus and terminology in the many disciplines involved in this wide field of regenerative medicine, and is an absolute necessity for an efficient and safe development of these technologies.

The PACT Forum has been designed and funded by the POSEIDO Foundation in order to remain completely independent from the commercial pressures and lobbying, which constitute the major threat damaging the credibility of this scientific field.

The second issue of 2014 (Volume 2, Issue 2) was the first PACT issue of the POSEIDO Journal [4]. It reviewed the current endeavor in the field and gathered several major articles on the topic, particularly concerning the diversity of cells observable in a platelet concentrate and the impact of centrifuge quality and protocol on the cell content and biological signature of L-PRF (Leukocyte- and Platelet-Rich Fibrin) clots and membranes [5]. This issue is a good illustration of the PACT philosophy and a major scientific milestone prepared by this Community.

2.3. The ISAIAS Forum Civitatis

The ISAIAS Forum (Intercultural Sensitivity Academic Index & Advanced Standards) is an international informal working group about the internationalization of higher education and research in general, and its impact in dentistry in particular. This group is developing new concepts, methods and instruments of observation and development of the internationalization of an academic environment (University, campus, laboratory) and its impact on the perceptions and behaviors of all academic stakeholders (particularly students, teachers and researchers). This is a major instrument to improve international cooperation.

The third issue of 2014 (Volume 2, Issue 3) was the first ISAIAS issue of the POSEIDO Journal [6]. It described the general philosophy of international cooperation promoted by the POSEIDO Consortium, and the integration of the ISAIAS program as an interface to optimize and monitor the cooperation and internationalization of higher

education and research within the network. This issue illustrates also the kind of research this working group is implementing among the members of the network, as a powerful instrument of dialogue and preparation for deeper cooperation.

2.4. The APOLLO Forum Civitatis

The APOLLO Forum (Advanced Plastic & Orthopedic Literature & Logic Open Forum) is an international research and education scientific community in the field of plastic and orthopedic surgery and related research, designed to promote a transdisciplinary approach, debate and literature between medical fields and the POSEID sciences.

Plastic and orthopedic sciences are strongly connected with the POSEID disciplines, as these fields are sharing common interests in implantable biomaterials, surgical techniques and regenerative strategies and materials. For example, platelet concentrates (Leukocyte- and Platelet-Rich Plasma L-PRP and Leukocyte- and Platelet-Rich Fibrin L-PRF)[7] used in oral and maxillofacial surgery to improve soft and hard tissue healing, are also widely used as injection in sports medicine [8] and orthopedics [9] or as wound dressing for skin ulcer and wound healing in plastic surgery [10]. The experience gathered in one field is very precious for the understanding and improvement in other fields. Another example can be found in implant surface and bone biomaterials, where similar materials are used in implant dentistry and in orthopedics, while both disciplines are rarely sharing the same research perception and interests [11].

Despite this obvious transdisciplinarity among these fields, the cooperation between the domains remains indirect in most cases; the literature produced in one domain has in general a limited impact on others. As it can be observed in regenerative medicine and for implantable materials, there cannot be any significant advance without a better integration of the shared knowledge of these fields.

The objective of this open forum is, as the acronym spells it, to develop an integrated platform of literature and logic in plastic, orthopedic and dental sciences. The boundaries of this forum are in fact wider than plastic and orthopedic sciences, and the APOLLO Forum can cover most interconnected medical aspects in general. This original path requires to support interdisciplinary discussions, research and publications, to slowly create a common integrated publication body shared by Experts from these different fields.

2.5. The CRONOS Forum Civitatis

The CRONOS Forum (Cancer Research, Oncology & Novel Oncological Systems) is an international informal working group in the field of cancer research and oncology, with a particular interest in a transdisciplinary approach of cancer understanding and treatment, and in a more holistic conception of the oncological paradigms. Cancer research is an important field in the oral and maxillofacial area: cancers located in this area are among the most difficult to treat and their diagnosis is often connected to the observations of the oral specialists. Moreover, oral pathologies can influence negatively the outcomes of cancer treatments. Finally, the cancers and their treatments have always a significant impact on the oral health, both in terms of quality of life (discomfort, difficulties of swallowing and eating) and general health (e.g. development of mycosis or oral infections impacting the general health). Oral health is an important parameter and marker in oncology.

The CRONOS Forum does not focus strictly on oral cancers and oral aspects of cancer treatments. However, the objective of this group is not to publish extensively on cancer (what

would be outside of the theme of the POSEIDO Journal). CRONOS is first designed to promote a transdisciplinary cooperation on this topic and a more holistic approach of oncological research. Through this obvious need of transdisciplinarity, CRONOS is opened to discuss new paradigms in oncology and to offer original perspectives in the field. Finally, the CRONOS Forum has been designed and funded by the POSEIDO Foundation in order to remain completely independent from the commercial pressures and lobbying.

3. Perspectives

On many aspects, the POSEIDO journal is an original and non-conventional publication. POSEIDO was designed since its creation as an open-access self-managed cooperative platform for discussion and publication, based on international and transdisciplinary cooperation. Special themes and specialized Forums are strong elements of this strategy and identity.

The POSEIDO journal is particularly interested in transdisciplinarity and translational research. It can be observed in the board of the journal, which is including scholars from other non-dental disciplines such as material sciences, orthopedics, veterinary sciences, biological sciences, plastic surgery and oncology. Transdisciplinarity is very often the key for the successful development of new treatments and technologies, as it allows to combine the Expertise from different disciplines and to offer fresh perspectives to problems encountered in a field. In order to promote these cooperation and dialogues between different fields of medicine and research and to support this transdisciplinarity, the combination of special themes and specialized community Forums is our innovative path.

Finally, like many terms used in the POSEIDO environment, the term “Forum Civitatis” was selected carefully with its strong Ancient Latin meaning of a Community gathering around the Forum, a neutral place to exchange and talk. In the same way, it is important that all members of the POSEIDO Consortium contribute with honesty and efficiency to the development of the POSEIDO Common House, to make from this concept a major success. In this journey, specialized themes or forums are only instruments of cooperation, and the sincere motivation to join and participate to this Community remains the heart and motor of the development of this project worldwide. All members shall always remember that POSEIDO is an open platform and that all initiatives and proposals are welcome.

Disclosure of interests

The authors have no conflict of interest to report.

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