

To the Editor

I have recently seen a call for papers launched for *Cardiology in the Young*, a journal you plan to start in the near future.

I am a publishing professional wrestling on a daily basis with the conflict that while more physicians wish to become authors and editors and urge the publication of new journals, fewer and fewer of these publications earn a sufficient constituency among libraries and individuals. It is definitely true that never have so many written so much for so few.

Yet in every single case we (the Publishers) are told, with various degrees of persuasiveness, that the respective journal is vitally needed to concentrate this or that special information currently "scattered" in larger journals of the general specialty. *Se non e vero e ben trovato*.

I am very keenly interested in your opinion as to the rationale for launching *Cardiology in the Young*. The reasons why I cannot understand this without your help are the following:

(1) there are about 60 journals in the general area of cardiology currently, if we only count the serious, peer-reviewed literature, many of which do publish pediatric cardiology articles;

(2) we, ourselves (Springer-Verlag), publish Pediatric Cardiology, which provides an international, multidisciplinary perspective to precisely the same topics *Cardiology in the Young* proposes. I hope you are familiar with it. How would the new journal differ from ours?

Allow me to quote a few data pertaining to the oversupply of medical information:

(1) the National Library of Medicine now houses over 4,000 journals; its shelves exceed 138 miles;

(2) a biomedical article appears every 26 seconds;

(3) two million articles are published in the biomedical literature each year;

(4) it has been calculated that if a physician were to read only two articles a day, within one year that physician would fall more than sixty centuries behind the tide of information. Conversely, if a physician were to read everything of potential professional importance, it would be necessary to read about 2,000 articles per day;

(5) it has been calculated that by the year 2000 the knowledge of the year 1950 will have doubled but it will be hidden in 30 times as many publications.

Someone remarked that this overabundance of information prevents the individual from finding the information he needs; "while drowning in information he is also starving for knowledge."

This is rather scary.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Gabriela Radulescu
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