

Response to Professor Koutroubakis

I appreciate the interest of Professor Koutroumpakis et al on our paper. I would like to concentrate my comments on some the following points of their letter.

1. The aim of our paper was not to evaluate the research centers by comparing their publications, because this was not initially included in our tasks, and because this effort contains the risk of erroneous evaluation of the centers.
2. The impact factor of all Journals in which research papers of Greek researchers were published is mentioned in a separate table in the original text. However, finding the exact number of citations for each paper is quite difficult. In any case I would like to emphasize the fact that the real evaluation of an article could be succeeded not only by taking into account the number of citations the paper received, but also by taking into account the contribution of a given article on the everyday clinical practice of the reader.
3. We apologize because the key words we used did not include the articles mentioned in the letter of Professor Koutroumpakis. I strongly believe that the readers of our Journal are quite able to make the necessary estimations and evaluations.
4. As mentioned in the section Materials and Methods of our original article, reviews were not taken into account.
5. As far as “comparisons” between original articles and letters to the editor are concerned, there is no doubt that the scientific value of the former is greater compared to letters to the editor. However, I strongly believe that a well written letter could be both, nicer and more informative for the readers, as compared to some received papers. Moreover, some letters to the editor had receive a quite large number of citations.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the fact that our paper (the first of its kind in the Greek Gastroenterology literature) could in the near future be completed by the addition of all new research papers. This could disseminate and make more accessible the contribution of Greek Gastroenterologists in the search for inflammatory bowel disease.

REFERENCES

1. I.E. Koutroubakis, M. Roussomoustakaki, G. Kolios, I.A. Mouzas, E.A. Kouroumalis. The contribution of Greek gastroenterologists in the international clinical and basic research of inflammatory bowel disease. *Annals Gastroenterol* 2007;20:291-292

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