



Editorial

The Last Editorial

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As we get ready to welcome 2018, *Xjenza Online* will enter a new era under the leadership of the new editor Dr Cristiana Sebu, Associate Professor of Biomathematics at the University of Malta. It is incredible how fast time has gone by as I am now writing my last editorial as the Editor-in-Chief of *Xjenza Online*. It has been an honour and a privilege for me to have had the opportunity to lead this prestigious Journal, the official organ of the Malta Chamber of Scientists, for the past 5 years. My Editorship has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience. During this time, *Xjenza Online* has been reborn, grown in size and become the Maltese journal for authoritative reports in all the areas of science. We have published 10 issues, 2 per year, 1 virtual issue on Maltese COST Actions and 1 as Proceedings of the International Mediterranean Neuroscience Conference (MNS2017) held in Malta in 2017.

When I look back on my Editorship, I am very proud of what *Xjenza Online* has achieved and of what it has become. The tremendous growth in science and technology has resulted in a proliferation of high-quality research articles published in *Xjenza Online* from both Maltese and international Scholars.

This, my last issue of *Xjenza Online*, continues this trend, showcasing some local and international important research and offering several valuable insights into different fields. The issue opens with the contribution by Melanie Grima and colleagues who have reviewed the molecular mechanisms of the sleep wake cycle with the aim of finding some therapeutic applications for insomnia. Gabriella Gatt et al., show that the prevalence of an easily preventable tooth condition such as erosive tooth wear is high in school aged Maltese children. Brockdorff and Bernice Amaira produce an estimate for human capital stock for Malta over the period 2005 to 2013 and compare Malta's performance with that of other countries. Emanuele Colica et al., present a 3D digital model of Ramla Bay (Gozo) obtained by using photograms taken from drones useful for monitoring the dynamics of the beach-dune system and the characterization of the coast for the mitigation of coastal erosion. Jennifer Fiorentino present a revised appraisal of Lichens of the Maltese Islands described by S. Sommier and A. Caruana Gatto in 1915. Yanica Ellul and Katya De Giovanni report on the social impact of the American University of Malta's Cospicua site on the Cottonera and the surrounding localities. The selection contains three commentaries. Manuela Radic and colleagues' contri-

buton from Malta and Palermo, Italy focused on liver diseases induced by alcohol, cannabinoids and nicotine; Tiziana M. Florio from L'Aquila, Italy gives her view of Parkinson's Disease motor disorganization and temporal processing and finally Cristiana Sebu has revised the application of the Electrical Impedance Mammography for low-cost, portable and non-invasive breast cancer screening. The collection ends with 6th Annual Science in the House Exhibition by David C. Magri.

The success of this Journal would not have been possible without the involvement, commitment, and support from a large group of associates and colleagues. First, I would like to thank Professor Alex Felice for his trust and support. Then, there are the Associate Editors, without their important work, it would not be possible to maintain the Journal's high standards of publication. Additionally, I take this opportunity to thank my visiting students from Cardiff University who have served as Editorial Assistants during these years (Stephanie in 2013, Caitlin 2014, Magdalena 2015, Katie and Amber 2016, Katie and Sunneth 2017) and above all Dr Jackson Said the Managing Editor and the copy editors William Hicklin and Gabriel Farrugia.

Last but not least, the continued success of this Journal is only possible through the combined cooperation of authors and reviewers. Without their contributions, there would be no *Xjenza Online*! I am grateful to the authors for their high-standard of work and to the reviewers for their crucial help in the peer-review process.

In turning the reins over to the new Editor-in-Chief, with great hopes I look forward to the future of *Xjenza Online* and I wish all the best to the new editorial team.

The new *Xjenza Online* will continue to make every effort to improve content and wide fields, for the benefit of our readers and all others interested in the recent development in the different branches of science in Malta and abroad.

It is now time to pass the baton to the new Editor and to conclude my last Editorial, but this is not my final farewell to *Xjenza*. Indeed, I have been asked to act as Publication Manager for the Chamber of Scientists to continue supporting the new Editors behind the scenes in furthering the success of *Xjenza Online*.

Giuseppe Di Giovanni
Editor-in-Chief of Xjenza Online
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