



*Editorial*

## Raising Awareness for Support of Xjenza Online

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Dear readers and authors of Xjenza Online, as Editor-in-Chief, I am pleased to announce the release of the 11th volume of Xjenza Online, both spring and autumn issues together.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I apologize to our authors and readers for the slight delay in releasing this volume. Our invaluable main Production Editor and Science Officer of Malta Chamber of Scientists, Julia Curmi, has sadly left for greener pastures although still continuing to serve the journal and her work as Copy Editor for this issue has been invaluable. Thank you very much, Julia, for all your assistance, support and work invested in the journal throughout the past two years. I also welcome on board Francesca Busuttill who will gradually take over Julia's responsibilities as Copy Editor for the journal.

In spite of all hardships the journal is passing through at the moment with barely any financial support and based mainly on voluntary manpower, I am excited to share with you the latest free open access publications. I hope readers and funders will appreciate the high standards of both the peer reviewed articles included in the current issue and their production as well as their great relevance to the very understanding of the perceptions, traditions and hazards in Maltese Islands, and thus, the incommensurate service the journal provides to the local community.

The volume opens with a study by Zammit and Baylon on the use of biosensors for monitoring of parameters and diagnosis of vital functional during first medical emergency.

Then, the article by Grech et al. identifies the main reasons and arguments that people put forward to support their stance against vaccines and the COVID-19 vaccination: health, socio-political factors and lack of scientific information on COVID-19 vaccine.

The article by Baldacchino et al. analyses how the house names assigned to about 20,000 homes in ten localities in Malta communicate social identities. The research reveals that Maltese house names act as potent symbols

of identity and provide a readily, freely and publicly available source of information about Maltese society. Behind the name of each and every house there is a sociological narrative which contextualises that particular name within a social, religious, political and linguistic context.

Next, the study by Attard et al. evaluates Malta's different rural localities and ranks them according to evidenced agricultural activities in small farming holdings, which, by their self-sustenance, have retained traditional Maltese rural features in both food production and consumption.

The research report by Thake et al. presents the case of a 17 year old lady diagnosed with immature high grade teratoma and raises awareness on the highest incidence of this disease in young women aged 18 to 39 and on the importance of early-stage diagnosis to fertility sparing and treatment.

Agius et al present then an overview and account of the geological and geographical characteristics of the Maltese islands, with a particular emphasis on the Sliema peninsula.

The following manuscript by De Battista et al. aims to elucidate and standardize C-reactive protein (CRP) blood sampling intervals in neonates with suspected early onset sepsis, and to describe the relationship between CRP results and final blood culture results. The authors' study emphasizes the importance of maintaining adequate timing intervals between serial CRP levels, which should be taken as a baseline on admission and then repeated not before 12 hours to achieve optimal sensitivity. Moreover, the results reveal that the current sampling practice might lead to falsely reassuring negative CRP values, affecting outcomes in sepsis management.

The audit by Gambin et al. reveals that there is inadequate serum prolactin monitoring in patients taking atypical antipsychotics at the Mount Carmel Hospital (MCH) and recommendations for improved clinical practice are made.

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The following article by Galea et al. describes an intense episode of seismic activity at about 23 km south of Malta whose most active phase lasted for around 2 months in September–November 2020, then continued sporadically even to the present day and, thus, provides useful insights onto ongoing geological processes and rep-

resents an important contribution towards assessing the sources of seismic hazard to the islands.

The volume concludes with an overview of the COPCA 2022 Conference in Valletta.

I conclude by wishing you all a fruitful and successful academic year ahead.