Welcome to the 18th volume of *Personalized Medicine*

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Background

To all our readers, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year and welcome you to Volume 18 of *Personalized Medicine*. I am pleased to introduce the first issue of 2021 which, as usual, contains a broad spread of content, representing the diverse field of personalized and precision medicine.

This year, the journal was delighted to announce an increase in the impact factor to 2.318. This is a superb achievement for the journal that would have not been possible without the continuous support of our readers, reviewers, authors and the invaluable expertise the editorial board members provide us with. We continue to encourage submissions which focus on implementation and translation of precision medicine discoveries into clinic, public health, technology and engagement. It is not lost on any of us that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of life and work including the personalized medicine research agenda. We encourage submissions on infectious disease, COVID-19 and precision public health to help advance the field.

Content highlights

Year 2020 has been defined in part by increased attention to inclusion and diversity across society at large as well as within the field of genomics and precision medicine. Our top five *Personalized Medicine* articles by readership are ranked in [Table 1](#). It is no surprise then that the top read article highlights the persistent knowledge gap in genetic studies across diverse populations. 'A review of clinical pharmacogenetics studies in African populations' highlights the rich genetic diversity present in the African population and the importance of capturing this diversity in pharmacogenomic tests [1].

Personalized medicine has global appeal and organizations like ICPeMed are bringing countries together to align on policy and implementation strategies. The article 'International consortium for personalized medicine: an international survey about the future of personalized medicine' presents the results of a survey of mostly European experts about the future of personalized medicine in their countries [2].

In other areas of the world, investigators are exploring implementation bottlenecks. 'Assessment of healthcare professional's knowledge, attitudes and perceived challenges of clinical pharmacogenomic testing in Egypt' reports that despite low knowledge, attitudes were very positive about the clinical application of pharmacogenomic testing [3].

Another highly read article, 'Exploring professional issues: the psychosocial component of genetic counseling in genomic healthcare' presented results of a facilitated discussion at a national conference in the UK that found genetic counselors well-positioned and eager to capitalize on their role as knowledge integrators and providing social support to patients undergoing genetic testing [4].

One of the most highly read research studies, 'Clinical validity of a gene expression signature in diagnostically uncertain neoplasm' evaluated the accuracy of a novel gene expression signature in differentiating benign nevi from melanoma, finding high diagnostic accuracy in uncertain cases [5].

We continue our successful partnership with Altmetric through 2020 and into 2021 [6]. Special mention goes to the article 'Review of policies of companies and databases regarding access to customers' genealogy data for

Table 1. Top five *Personalized Medicine* 2020 articles by readership.

Rank	Title	Author(s)	Volume	Ref.
1	A review of clinical pharmacogenetics studies in African populations	Radouani F, Zass L, Hamdi Y, et al.	17 (Issue 2)	[1]
2	International consortium for personalized medicine: an international survey about the future of personalized medicine	Venne J, Busshoff U, Poschadel S, et al.	17 (Issue 2)	[2]
3	Exploring professional issues: the psychosocial component of genetic counseling in genomic healthcare	Benjamin C, Phillips A, Finch J, et al.	17 (Issue 1)	[3]
4	Assessment of healthcare professionals' knowledge, attitudes and perceived challenges of clinical pharmacogenetic testing in Egypt	Nagy M, Lynch M, Kamal S, et al.	17 (Issue 4)	[4]
5	Clinical validity of a gene expression signature in diagnostically uncertain neoplasms	Clarke LE, Mabey B, Flake II DD, et al.	17 (Issue 5)	[5]

Figure 1. Readership demographics for *Personalized Medicine* in 2020.

law enforcement purposes' which gained a lot of social media attention and achieved one of the journal's highest Altmetric scores in 2020 [7]. Interest in this topic was likely driven by the growing use of genetic genealogy methods in unsolved crimes.

Readership demographics

Some of the articles that attracted the most attention in 2020 were authored by experts from Africa, consistent with this, we have also seen a significant portion of the readership demographics come from Asia, Africa and South America. In particular, although North America still holds the lead in the readership demographics with 38%, an almost equal proportion of the readership comes from Asia (26%), Africa (5%) and also South America (2%), as shown in Figure 1. The remaining 29% is coming from Europe (26%) and Australia (3%). These metrics highlight the international impact that the journal starts to enjoy compared with previous years [8].

Social media

Personalized Medicine's social media presence has continued to grow throughout 2020 and you can join over 2380 people (at the time of writing) in following the journal on Twitter at @fsgpme [9]. We regularly post journal highlights, including newly published content and issues, offers and the latest news in the field.

Conclusion

As with the previous years, we are open to all feedback from the personalized and precision medicine communities regarding the direction of our journal's content, especially pertaining to any priority topics in the field, such as related to COVID-19 pandemic. Of course, we welcome unsolicited original, review and opinion articles and we wish to cordially acknowledge the contribution of all of our valued Editorial Board members, readers, authors and peer reviewers for their continued support toward expanding the impact of the journal. Also, driven from the readership's geographical distribution, we invite potential authors from across the globe to contribute their research with our journal to benefit from the international visibility its content is starting to enjoy.

We are very much looking forward to collaborating with you all over the next year and hope to see *Personalized Medicine* grow even more and serve the research community in 2021.

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The authors have no relevant affiliations or financial involvement with any organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. This includes employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants or patents received or pending, or royalties.

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