

Research in Graubünden

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The eCM Journal focuses on new findings on illnesses and injuries within the musculoskeletal field: orthopaedic, trauma, maxillofacial (including dental) and spine. Image: Shutterstock.

“All I need for my work is an Internet connection and a computer,” says Simona Ciriello. Since September 2016, the scientist with a doctorate in natural sciences has been responsible for the production process of a scientific online journal. For this task, the native of Naples, Italy, moved to the Alpine city of Davos, Switzerland, after spending time in Cologne, Germany, and London, England. “For private reasons, I was interested in moving to Switzerland when I came across the job at the *European Cells & Materials Journal (eCM)* in Davos. I had never heard of Davos or Graubünden before. In the meantime, I have discovered the mountains, hiking, and skiing for myself. Even after four years I still admire the unique alpine environment every day anew.” Ciriello recently moved to Basel, Switzerland, for family reasons. There she will continue to work for the *eCM Journal* from her home office. “The exchange with the editorial team and authors takes place mostly online. However, I will still regularly travel to Davos, to meet the team or participate in *eCM* yearly conference,” she says.

Ciriello explains what the *eCM Journal* is all about: “The electronic journal has its origins in 1999 and informs about new methods and results in the field of musculoskeletal research. The first publication appeared in 2001. The founders, Geoff Richards, Iolo ap Gwynn, and Godfried Roomans, pursued a novel concept from the very beginning. The content should be accessible on the Internet free of charge and without registration for all those interested. The *eCM Journal* was created for the benefit of science and not for profit. For the review of the submitted texts we draw on a pool of experienced scientists. Each year we receive about 100 submissions from all over the world, of which forty to fifty are published on the *eCM Journal's* website (www.ecmjournal.org). The Davos-based AO Research Institute Davos (ARI) is the publisher of the *eCM Journal*. Geoff Richards, director of ARI, is also editor in chief of the *eCM Journal*. The journal is financed by a contribution from the AO Foundation, sponsors, and a fee paid by authors for published articles. The editorial team and the reviewers perform their duties with receiving any compensation.”

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The *eCM Journal* focuses on new findings on illnesses and injuries within the musculoskeletal field: orthopaedic, trauma, maxillofacial (including dental) and spine. Researchers are looking for long-term solutions to the most effective treatment of bone fractures, back and nerve pain or destroyed cartilage. For example, they are developing new biomaterials for long-term implants that do not interfere with the body. They are investigating how stem cells can be used to stimulate the growth of cartilage. They are looking into how to treat back pain. Another important topic to which the *eCM Journal* will devote a special issue is the prevention and treatment of joint and bone infections resulting from surgical interventions. For Ciriello, the advantage of unrestricted access to the *eCM Journal* is obvious. "People need to have access to what is happening in research. If there is no one who learns about research, what is the point of doing it at all?"

Simona Ciriello and Daniela Heinen

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*Simona Ciriello, eCM Journal
Production Editor
Image: AO Foundation*