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**Archives of Neurosurgery: The Scientific Home of Neurosurgery. The creation of the Unique Diamond-Open Access Journal in Neurosurgery with an author-friendly advisory peer-reviewing and publishing policy within reach of everyone in the world... born from the ashes of a World-Chaos.**

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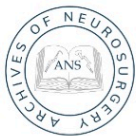
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# Archives of Neurosurgery: The Scientific Home of Neurosurgery. The creation of the Unique Diamond-Open Access Journal in Neurosurgery with an author-friendly advisory peer-reviewing and publishing policy within reach of everyone in the world... born from the ashes of a World-Chaos.

## Abstract

This is an editorial article.

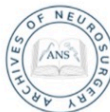
## Visual Abstract



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## VISUAL ABSTRACT

Archives of Neurosurgery: The Scientific Home of Neurosurgery. The creation of the Unique Diamond-Open Access Journal in Neurosurgery with an author-friendly advisory peer-reviewing and publishing policy within reach of everyone in the world... born from the ashes of a World-Chaos. Romero Rangel, José Alberto Israel, Fiacro Jiménez Ponce, and José Antonio Soriano Sánchez. Archives of Neurosurgery (II), 1, 2023, Pag 1-9



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Fig. 1. Archives of Neurosurgery Logo. Design and original draft by José Alberto Israel Romero Rangel; style validation, appropriateness and approval by José Antonio Soriano Sánchez; professional edition, suggestions and final edition by Digital Commons design team [42].



Fig. 2. Archives of Neurosurgery Worldwide readership as of Digital Commons Dashboard (powered by Google Maps<sup>®</sup>) since its Launch in May 1st, 2020 up-to-date [7].72.

Table 1. Top 10 global journals in neurosurgery as compared to Archives of Neurosurgery, highlighting Archives of Neurosurgery as the unique Diamond-Open-Access journal in Neurosurgery and the only one with an Author-Friendly Concept with advice on Methods, Guidelines adherence, Statistics, English Edition and Graphics on a single-blind peer-review with certified reviewers [1]–[7].

Rank	Journal	Country	H-Index	Publisher	SJR 2019 [1][2]	Impact Factor [1][2]	Quality	Scheme	Peer-Reviewing Process	Author Support
1	Spine	United States	266	Lippincott Williams and Wilkins Ltd.	1.386	2.735	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-CA 4,400 USD [1][2]	Double-Blind	None
2	Journal of Neurosurgery	United States	219	American Association of Neurological Surgeons	1.413	3.541	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-CA 3,000 USD [1][2]	Double-Blind	None
3	Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry	United Kingdom	216	BMJ Publishing Group	2.022	7.413	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-CA 3,600 GBP [1][2]	Double-Blind	None
4	Journal of Neurotrauma	United States	207	Lippincott Williams and Wilkins Ltd. Mary Ann Liebert Inc.	1.324	2.446	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-CA 4,250 USD [1][2]	Double-Blind	None
5	European Spine Journal	Germany	145	Springer Verlag	1.374	4.667	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-CA 4,080 USD [1][2]	Double-Blind	None
6	The Spine Journal	United States	115	Elsevier	1.572	3.423	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-CA 4,190 USD [1][2]	Double-Blind	None
7	Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine	United States	106	American Association of Neurological Surgeons	1.394	2.797	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-CA 3,920 USD [1][2]	Double-Blind	None
8	Neurosurgical Focus	United States	102	American Association of Neurological Surgeons	1.298	3.367	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-CA 3,000 USD [1][2]	Double-Blind	None
9	World Neurosurgery	United States	101	Elsevier	0.695	1.862	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-CA 3,530 USD [1][2]	Single-Blind	None
To be Ranked	Archives of Neurosurgery	Mexico	To be Ranked	Mexican Society of Neurological Surgery empowered by Digital Commons/ Elsevier	To be Ranked	To be Ranked	To be Ranked	Diamond Open-Access Totally Free for authors and readers	Single-Blind by Certified Reviewers	Author-Friendly Concept Full support for free on Methods Guidelines adherence Statistics English Edition And Graphics

## Keywords

Diamond Open-Access Journal in Neurosurgery; Archives of Neurosurgery a totally free Journal; Author-friendly journal with peer-reviewing and publishing policy; Creative Commons License; Advisory on methods, statistics and English-language Edition; Certified Reviewers; Archives of Neurosurgery: The Scientific home of Neurosurgery, a journal for every neurosurgeon in the world.

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# Archives of Neurosurgery: The Scientific Home of Neurosurgery. The Creation of the Unique Diamond-open Access Journal in Neurosurgery with an Author-friendly Advisory Peer-reviewing and Publishing Policy Within Reach of Everyone in the World... Born from the Ashes of a World-Chaos

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Stars, the neurons of God ...

José Alberto Israel Romero Rangel

Born from the Ashes ...

**A**rchives of Neurosurgery was born from the ashes of several chaotic events around the world in many fields. From the scientific readership standpoint, we were in the middle of a revolution in scientific divulgation. At this point, new schemas for knowledge sharing started to popularize (open-access and free-access) as a response to the overwhelming efficiency of cybernetic code-breakers for unlocking pay-for-reading scientific papers, the most recognized entity SciHub [1]. Concerning the healthcare research field, it was more evident that knowledge generation was driven by economic profit rather than an authentic medical need for knowledge [2–5]. As a result, medical research guides medical care to a culture of expensive individualized treatment to benefit a capitalist system that few people can afford and that not necessarily

correlates with better outcomes [6,7]. Farther than that, medical care that does not fill these characteristics is considered suboptimal if not unethical [8], even when the vast majority of the world's population is not in reach of that kind of healthcare, representing an ethics crisis in medical praxis. From the scientific publishing aspect, we are convinced from years and years of research that effective publishing is increasingly more a matter of what relationships researchers have than what they have to say or transmit [9–11]. Therefore, the scientific research community is markedly perceived as elitist by many physicians; on the other hand, most physicians do not have the proper training to perform their research studies or the skills to communicate their results effectively [9–11]. It is also true that many physicians and researchers who lack edge technology or belong to low or middle-income countries do not have the financial or background support to provide the utmost quality research [9–11]. Publishing should be more a matter of what people have to say rather than the lack of support or an adverse background; the results physicians provide in their communities with the available

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resources they have are the key factors in delivering medicine effectively and developing useful clinical knowledge. Simultaneously, several efforts have made publishing available to many but hardly not for everyone [9,12,13]. To turn research into the reach of everyone, we need new ways of mind-thinking about the publishing and peer-review process, a concept we will explain further in the paragraphs below, and that provides the core of Archives of Neurosurgery. The next chaotic event is an aspirational issue for medical research collaborators. Publishing is regarded as a medium to access higher circles among medical communities or to have increased recognition among peers; meanwhile, others use it to start a political career, to leader assignments inside an institution, among many other proper goals in a person's lifespan [12,14]. Nevertheless, none of these reasons obey the authentic need to discover knowledge which is why motor of science. The divulgation of research under these motives is mainly performed not for the patients' benefit but the researcher's own. From the academic teaching point of view, there is a current crisis of disrespect between formed neurosurgeons and young neurosurgeons or trainees in both directions [15–19]. Adding for this situation, the student body seems to rebel against “the military tutorship style” imposed by mentors in the neurosurgery residence programs to fight for their human rights; unfortunately, this fight is not infrequently confused with anarchy [18,19]. This war of egos reflects in papers, too, where students consider themselves used by professors as a workforce for paper production, and professors consider they owe this workload as they benefit from coauthoring renowned neurosurgeons [18,19]. Few call this situation by its proper name “cooperation”; probably the only aspect done effectively among scientists - joint efforts for the benefit of knowledge; never before has research sharing skills been so important as they are nowadays. That drives us to the final but not least important aspect of the time in which Archives of Neurosurgery was born, the heart of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this point, the whole world fell into a full-aspect crisis, from the very center in each's one universe named home, with family members falling sick or dying, up to the magnificent concept of humanity being at risk of survival [20–24]. Not once but many times, we continue being afraid that this could end humanity as we know it. As a result, this phenomenon made us aware of our fragility, which we considered overcome by being the most developed species on our planet. The scientific community made a complete mind-thinking change as abrupt as the

hypervariable section of the COVID-19 [25]. We broke rigid scientific rules that provided the ethics committee a bureaucratic spirit that most of the time took the development of proper research a delay of ten years; when for industry, things are developed, used, and then proven. These phenomena made us break these rules in an emergency to have an effective vaccine to survive as a species [25]. In such a manner, it worked that we reached not one but many vaccines with different action mechanisms in a multi-interdisciplinary intercontinental effort [26]. Nowadays, COVID-19 seems to be under control [27], but we are not safe; other viruses have started crowding and coming to our species [28–30]. There seems that from the passing of years, pandemics have shortened the “in-between” periods, probably directly related to the human mass distribution, interconnection, and world devastation we have done as species [30], as well as questionable research on the virus cross-species transmission [31]. Not to be sufficient, soon after the pandemic had reached a plateau, world potency nations increased their military tensions and changed our reality continuously and deeply again [32].

As a result of these phenomena, Archives of Neurosurgery was born with a single objective, to bring top-class neurosurgical research in reach of every physician in the world. We compromise with this extreme effort to provide core knowledge in the most authentic and unique Diamond Open-Access Journal (totally free) in neurosurgery (Table 1), designed to benefit patients everywhere, regardless of their economic status, country's infrastructure, or physicians' scientific background. Therefore our revolutionary mind-thinking change is to serve as an advisory journal that provides the needed methodological, statistical, and reporting guidance that requires most neurosurgeons to provide high-quality research and publishing.

## 1. The project

Archives of Neurosurgery is auspicated by the Mexican Society of Neurological Surgery, which has a lifelong history of desiring to have a World-class scientific journal. The SMCN was founded in 1954 [33]; it has had 37 presidents and represents a community of more than 1285 neurosurgeons, growing to provide healthcare to more than 126,014,024 [34] inhabitants. In our country, we have over 16 Neurosurgical training centers located inside the highest-level facilities inside the three-tier infrastructure healthcare. Throughout history, many World-Class Neurosurgeons have emerged from our country since the specialty started in the

Table 1. Top 10 global journals in neurosurgery as compared to Archives of Neurosurgery, highlighting Archives of Neurosurgery as the unique Diamond Open-Access journal in Neurosurgery and the only one with an Author Friendly Concept with advice on Methods, Guidelines adherence, Statistics, English Edition and Graphics on a single-blind peer-review with certified reviewers [61–70].

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9	Neurosurgical Focus	United States	102	American Association of Neurological Surgeons	1.298	3.367	Q1 Journal	Gold-OA 3000 USD [41]	Double-Blind	None
10	World Neurosurgery	United States	101	Elsevier	0.695	1.862	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-OA 3,530 USD [42]	Single-Blind	None
To be Ranked	Archives of Neurosurgery	Mexico	To be Ranked	Mexican Society of Neurological Surgery empowered by Digital Commons/ Elsevier	To be Ranked	To be Ranked	To be Ranked	Diamond Open-Access Totally Free for authors and readers	Single-Blind by Certified Reviewers	Author Friendly Concept Full support for free on Methods Guidelines adherence Statistics English Edition And Graphics



General Hospital of Mexico in 1937 [35]. In 2019, the society elected Dr. José Antonio Soriano Sánchez (H index of 6 [36]) as President of the Mexican Society of Neurological Surgery for the biennium 2019–2021. He has a personality with a profound sense of self-determination in fulfilling every project he starts. He is also an international leader in neurosurgery and a renowned pioneer in the field of Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery [37], whose main objective of his direction was to concrete the journal project, making it a reality. Simultaneously, the first author, José Alberto Israel Romero Rangel, was in the middle of his research carrier and was at the core of the scientific publishing process as a researcher and reviewer for multiple international journals (more than 161 reviews in 12 international Journals and 16 publications in 2022 in 5 international Journals H-Index of 4 [36,38]), which permitted him to discover the barriers to publishing and the voids in the reviewing process. With this knowledge in mind, he formulated a project with innovative ideas that could theoretically be included in a new journal under a different publishing and managing schema. Once designed, he later offered this project to the president of our society Dr. Soriano, who, after reviewing and adding with advisory, agreed to assign to Dr. Romero the task of fulfilling the making of the journal and directing the project under his supervision. Finally but not least important, both decided to select Dr. Fiacro Jiménez Ponce as the Editor in chief of the Journal because of having the highest H-Index (26 and 56 documents [36]) among Mexican Neurosurgeons at that time and having a recognized research reputation for his long-life history in research; including own research, collaborations, and directing research courses in many important institutions in Mexico [39]. The inclusion of Dr. Fiacro assured the best practices in publishing for a World Top-Class Journal. Dr. Fiacro agreed with joy and provided his expertise as a senior researcher with continuous guidance on ethics and academic surveillance. In this way, we undertook the project as founders under the following figures Dr. Soriano Sánchez José Antonio as ANS Founder and Founder Directive Editor, Dr. Fiacro Jiménez Ponce as ANS Founder and Editor-in-Chief Founder, and Dr. José Alberto Israel Romero Rangel as ANS Founder and Managing Editor Founder [40]. The project was centered on a world-class journal and directed with the assistance of digital commons, a service the SMCN contracted with Elsevier (R) that provides the infrastructure to deliver an independent scientific journal by the hand of the number 1 publisher in medicine. This aid would help us match our goal

to be indexed and recognized as a world-class journal. To meet this goal, we were convinced that our publications should be English centered, with other secondary language options in the future. The name was selected as inclusive and non-discriminating as to represent every neurosurgeon worldwide and to resemble the importance of neurosurgery in the historical development of medicine (given that trephination was the first documented surgical procedure in medicine). As a result of both factors, we selected Archives of Neurosurgery, an original and pragmatic name never used before to date [41]. The first author designed the logo draft (Fig. 1) as a coat of arms (to operate and research) and style validation, appropriateness, and approval by the directive editor after the selective professional edition, suggestions, visual improvement, and final edition by the creative commons team [42]. It includes several elements; the first, the “Logo” is formed by “the journal name” outside the circle [42]. The second, “The book,” represents scientific knowledge in neurosurgery. The third, “The circle with the name inside,” represents the neurosurgical community around the world. The fourth, the “ANS” letters, represent the abbreviated form of the journal's name [42]. The left and right images around ANS letters represent two key instruments in the surgical praxis of every neurosurgeon around the world, the Malice bipolar and the Hudson Tree, providing a common language for all of us [42]. The name - “Archives of Neurosurgery” - appeals to the historical value of research that fosters the great achievements and knowledge development in the neurosurgical praxis as a contribution to humanity [42]. Blue and White (light gray) colors represent the colors of the Mexican Society of Neurosurgical Surgery [42]. They represent the joint efforts of the global neurosurgical research community and the knowledge that guides our praxis. With this idea in mind, we proposed the project to the Assembly of the Mexican Society of Neurological Surgery, which unanimously accepted it on the February assembly



Fig. 1. Archives of Neurosurgery Logo. Design and original draft by José Alberto Israel Romero Rangel; style validation, appropriateness, approval by José Antonio Soriano Sánchez; professional edition, suggestions and final edition by Digital Commons design team [42].

of 2020 to start working on its finances and implementation.

## 2. The journal's structure and its contribution to scientific divulgation from now on

The journal's main editorial structure has two slopes. First, we respect history and take advantage of current knowledge on managing a journal, so we take the best of the current journals. The Second is our authenticity in a new concept for the reviewing process, the Author-friendly advisory journal, which highlights the importance of the scientific core of the paper and helps the author improve the quality of research and reporting to provide world-class quality research. In the first aspect, we were inspired by some neurosurgical journals by the practical requirements of the manuscript typesetting format for submission. From other general medicine journals, we agreed that all papers must follow reporting guidelines at best. And from interdisciplinary journals, we added focusing on methodology, not results. For the second aspect of our journal, we decided to solve the scientific barriers that many neurosurgeons have. Archives of Neurosurgery is the a Diamond Open-Access Journal in neurosurgery available since 2020 [43]; which means that it is totally free, no cost for authors on publishing nor for readers and no subscription needed [44], with all of our papers published under a Creative Commons license 4.0 CCBY with an option for non-commercial distribution and any other varieties of the CC 4.0 license [45]. Furthermore, our journal offers an English-language edition for free, which is another service that no other journal offers at a free cost. Our reviewers are certified by Elsevier's Research Academy [46]; we instruct them with our policy to identify the scientific value of the papers and help authors take the best out of them by advising on methods, statistics, and reporting. Once the paper is accepted, the editorial team provides an English-language edition and provides the authors with the pre-print proof to ensure that no meaningful changes were made to the document. Also, the editorial team can assist or guide the final version's figures or tables presentation. Finally, unlike many journals, we do not ask the authors for copyright transfer of their research efforts because we consider this practice unethical; we only keep publishing and reprint rights. Therefore we are proud to say that this is the first journal in neurosurgery that offers these advantages betting for the entire distribution of knowledge.

With these tools, we aim to break the barriers to publishing in neurosurgery, the main one, the self-

imposed barrier to joining the world of publishing. With our journal, you only need something important to say, and we help you say it best so that all the world hears every word you say. Archives of Neurosurgery was born from the ashes of Chaos through the full human effort and financial support of the Mexican Society of Neurological Surgery to become worldwide: The Scientific Home of Neurosurgery (Archives of Neurosurgery motto).

## 3. Archives of Neurosurgery up today

Archives of Neurosurgery officially launched its journal site on May 1st, 2020 [43], just two months after the starting of the pandemic in Mexico on February 28th. It received the first submission on May 22nd, 2020, by Dr. Diego Mendez Rosito et al. from Mexico, along with two other submissions, including one international submission by A. Campero et Al. We received 33 submissions in the first year [47], including eight of international precedence, within which some were published in the first volume and Issue brought online on April 20th, 2021, but officially launched on a formal presential meeting on May 1st, 2021 at the Club 51 ® installations in Mexico City [48]. By then, only ten days from the online upload, we already had readers in North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia [47], precisely one year from its foundation after a year of work in the middle of the pandemic. We reached all five continents within the first month of the launch with a steady increase in our readership, with over one thousand readers in just four months. Up to a day at two issues of the first volume, with 20 papers online within all levels of evidence, and at one year and three months of its launch, we have reached 6417 downloads from 507 institutions in 137 countries across the world [49]. We have had submissions from several countries and almost all the continents (except Antarctica) Kenia accounting for Africa; Germany; Italy and United Kingdom for Europe; USA, Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil for America; and Russia and India for Asia (Fig. 2).

First Issue was filled with plenty of rich aspects including a most relevant editorial related to research as the focus to a neurosurgical praxis standards of medical care [50]; a COVID-19 guideline developed by joint effort of the subsections of the Mexican Society of Neurological Surgery for stratifying management on neurosurgical patients [51]; a most successful paper on traumatic peroneal nerve injuries having up to date 2617 downloads by Rodriguez Aceves et al. [49,52]; a validation of a distress thermometer for brain tumors in the

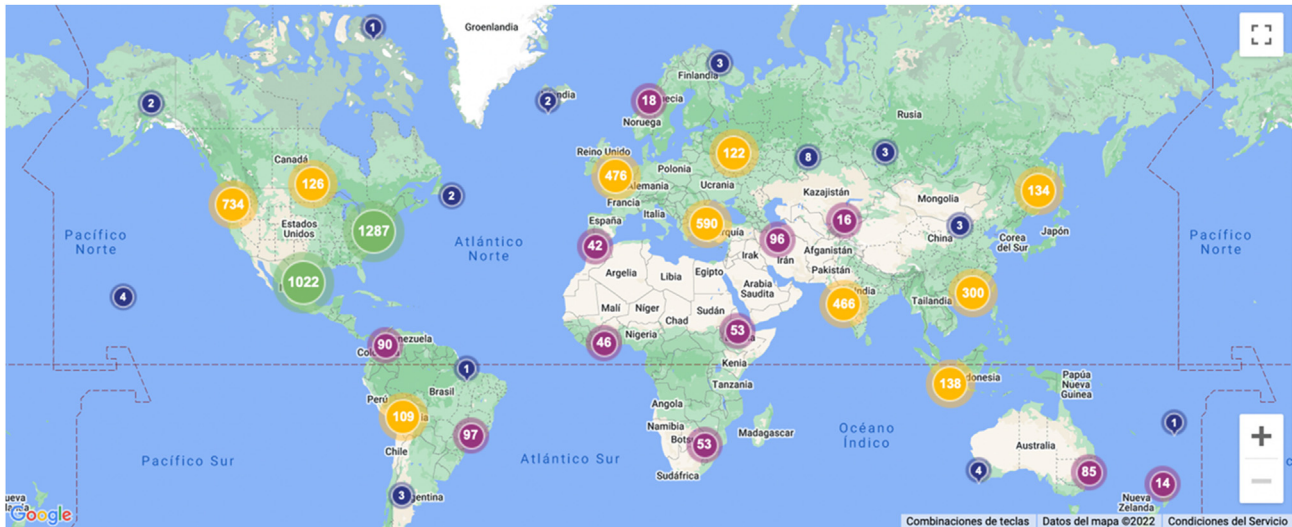


Fig. 2. Archives of Neurosurgery Worldwide readership as of Digital Commons Dashboard (powered by Google Maps<sup>®</sup>) since its Launch in May 1st, 2020 up-to-date [71,72].

Mexican population [53]; an anatomical classification of the suprameatal tubercle for posterior fossa skull base surgery [54]; an educational vignette on the sellar barriers concepts [55]; a cohort comparison on two endovascular techniques [56]; a paper on anatomical and technical aspects on endoscope assisted surgery for posterior fossa [57], and a new minimally invasive surgical procedure (MINTED Technique) for Chiari disease that reunites the advantages of the historically described procedures and adds specific patients goals without disrupting posterior tension band [58] that merited the Coverage of the Journal (Fig. 3) [59] and a special invited commentary by one of the Worldwide Leaders in Neurosurgery and Spine Surgery, Atul Goehl who describe a completely different approach to Chiari disease aiming to fusion without decompression [60] based on his long-life research library of up to 725 papers, having an H index of 48 [36].

There is jet more to say about Archives of Neurosurgery, such as that our readership is most significant outside of Mexico, with the United States of America being the number 1 reader [49]. Most of our readers belong to the commercial industry, education, and governments. Therefore, it is to highlight among our top readers the Dow Jones & Company, Merit Network Inc, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, The Massachusetts General Hospital, King's College London, West Virginia University, and Rush University Medical Center, Alberta Health Services, among others [49]. Finally, we have incorporated trends in publishing, such as visual abstracts since the beginning of the journal's history, and surgical demonstrative videos

are coming as authors start to submit them. We have also developed two workshops to teach authors the skills for fast paper production with prolific terminal proficiency. As we have described, we

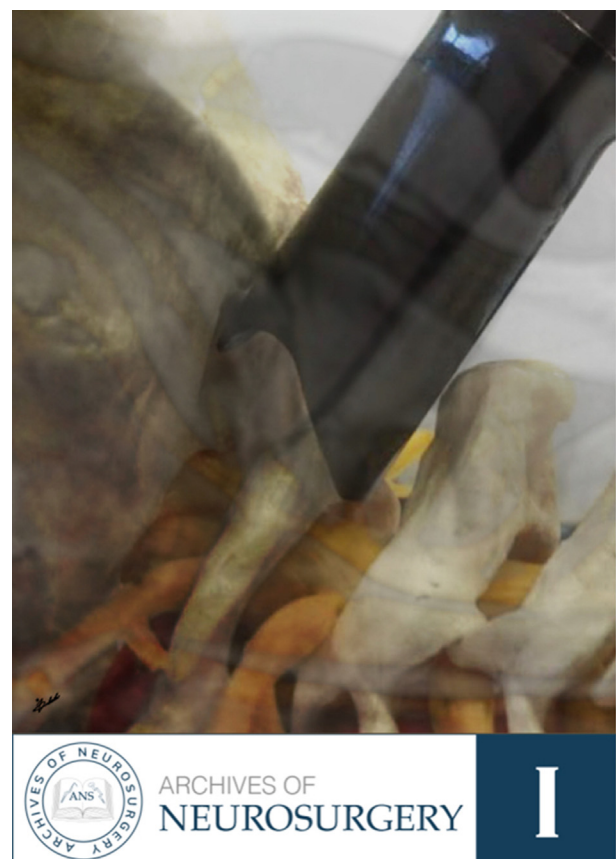


Fig. 3. Cover Page of the first Issue of the Journal [59].



have top-class neurosurgeons, reviewers, and authors on our committee. However, also we consider that every neurosurgeon has the same potential. Therefore, our objective is to provide them with the same visibility and research quality so that no distinctions are made when referring to our neurosurgical community.

### Conflict of interest

We have no conflict of interest.

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