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# Turkish Journal of **COLORECTAL DISEASE**

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# Turkish Journal of COLORECTAL DISEASE

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## EDITORIAL



### Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Fatma Ayca Gultekin, M.D. Zonguldak-Turkey

## Promoting Collaboration, Quality, and Recognition in Scientific Publishing

Dear Colleagues,

The “III. International Colorectal Surgery Congress and XX. National Colon and Rectal Surgery Congress,” held in Antalya from May 16 to 20, 2025, was an outstanding scientific gathering that brought together more than 1,400 participants. The event offered an extensive and dynamic program, featuring cutting-edge discussions led by leading experts in the field of colorectal surgery. The strong attendance and engagement reaffirm the commitment of our professional community to continuous learning and academic excellence.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude, on behalf of the Turkish Journal of Colorectal Disease (TJCD), to Congress President Prof. Dr. Emre Balık, Congress Secretary Prof. Dr. Cihangir Akyol, the organizing committee, President of the Turkish Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery Prof. Dr. Feza Yarbüğ Karakayalı, and the Society’s Executive Board for their outstanding contributions.

This year, TJCD had the opportunity to expand its academic and educational mission at the congress. Building on the success of the previous “Editors Meet Reviewers” session, we launched an upgraded format in 2025 to include not only reviewers but also prospective authors. The “Mastering Scientific Writing and Peer Review” pre-congress course (Figure 1), held on May 16, was co-moderated by Dr. Alaa El-Hussuna and myself, with the active participation of 27 attendees. The pre-congress course covered essential topics such as manuscript structure, scientific integrity, adherence to reporting guidelines, the principles of constructive peer review, and methodological evaluation of different study designs. The interactive analysis of sample manuscripts enriched the educational content and enhanced its practical value.

I would like to extend my appreciation to our Editorial Board Members who contributed to the course and to our distinguished international speakers, Dr. Peter Christensen and Dr. Alaa El-Hussuna, for elevating the scientific content and global scope of the event.

Another highlight of the congress was the presentation of the TJCD Best Article Awards. These awards recognize outstanding original articles published in TJCD between January 2023 and December 2024. This initiative aims to encourage academic productivity and highlight high-quality research:

### First Prize

Özben V, Okkabaz N, Group TCCDS. Partial Versus Total Mesorectal Excision for the Surgical Treatment of Mid-Rectal Cancer: An Assessment from the Turkish Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery’s Colorectal Cancer Database. Turk J Colorectal Dis. 2024 Jun;34(2):41-49. doi:10.4274/tjcd.galenos.2024.2024-2-1.

### Second Prize

Bişgin T, Canda AE, Manoglu B, Ellidokuz H, Sökmen S. The Long-Term Effectiveness of Sacral Neuromodulation in Treating Low Anterior Resection Syndrome: A Single Center Experience. Turk J Colorectal Dis. 2023 Sep;33(3):72-79. doi:10.4274/tjcd.galenos.2023.2023-6-3.

### Third Prize

Özata İH, Arslan Ç, Karahan SN, Tatar C, Aydın I, Kozan R, Yıldırım AC, Külle CB, Kılıncım T, Cakcak İE, Zenger S, Sevim Y, Zeren S, Kamer E. General Surgeons’ Approach to Pilonidal Abscess in Turkey: Results of a Nationwide Survey. Turk J Colorectal Dis. 2024 Jun;34(2):54-61. doi:10.4274/tjcd.galenos.2024.2024-5-2.



# Turkish Journal of COLORECTAL DISEASE

In parallel with this initiative, we also introduced a new award to recognize excellence in peer review—one of the cornerstones of scientific publishing. For the first time this year, and with the goal of establishing it as an annual tradition, we presented the TJCD Best Reviewers Award to three outstanding reviewers who provided the highest-quality and most consistent contributions to our journal over the past two years. I extend my deepest thanks to

**Dr. Timuçin Erol,**

**Dr. Tayfun Bişgin,**

**and Dr. Özgen Işık**

for their dedication, professionalism, and valuable support of TJCD's editorial process.

On behalf of the editorial team, I would like to thank all authors, reviewers, and readers who contribute to the scientific excellence of TJCD. We remain committed to supporting academic development, promoting evidence-based research, and advancing the global visibility and quality of colorectal science.

Warm regards,

**Dr. Fatma Ayca Gultekin**

**Editor-in-Chief**

**Turkish Journal of Colorectal Disease**



**Figure 1.** III. International Colorectal Surgery Congress and XX. National Colon and Rectal Surgery Congress; Pre-congress Course: Mastering Scientific Writing and Peer Review



# Turkish Journal of **COLORECTAL DISEASE**



## **In Memoriam: Dr. Neil Smart**

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the Turkish Journal of Colorectal Disease (TJCD)

Dr. Fatma Ayca Gultekin – Editor-in-Chief

It is with great sorrow that we learned of the passing of Dr. Neil Smart, Editor-in-Chief of Colorectal Disease, a distinguished colorectal surgeon, and a highly respected academic who contributed significantly to the advancement of our field worldwide.

Dr. Smart was not only a leading figure in scientific publishing but also a generous mentor and a collaborative spirit who inspired countless colleagues through his editorial leadership and professional integrity. His participation in the Editors Meet Reviewers session at the II. International Colorectal Surgery Congress and XIX. National Colon and Rectal Surgery Congress, organized by TJCD, remains a vivid and meaningful memory. In that session, he shared his invaluable editorial experience and thoughtful reflections on the global peer-review ecosystem.

Beyond his editorial legacy, Dr. Smart's influence extended deeply into the academic and clinical life of the colorectal surgery community. His wisdom, clarity of thought, and commitment to scientific excellence helped shape the standards we uphold today in research and publication.

On behalf of the entire Editorial Board of the Turkish Journal of Colorectal Disease and the Turkish Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery we extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Smart's family, colleagues, and the international colorectal surgery community. We mourn the loss of a true leader, educator, and advocate for science. His contributions will be remembered with great respect and gratitude.

May he rest in peace.