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Tunis, November 30th 2023

Subject: Request for APC Waiver

Dear Editors,

I hope this email finds you well. My co-authors and I are rheumatologists in the Rheumatology department of Mongi Slim Hospital, Tunisia. We are writing to request an APC waiver for our manuscript titled "Prevalence of spine pain among Tunisian children and adolescents and related factors" which we have submitted to Pediatric Rheumatology in the PAFLAR special issue (Context Specific Pediatric Rheumatology, Care-Lessons from Africa).

We live in Tunisia, an underdeveloped country. The research field here is struggling to gain a foothold particularly in the aftermath of the sanitary crisis and the economic challenges confronting our nation. Unfortunately, due to these economic constraints, we have no funding and thus, it is challenging for researchers like us to cover the cost of the APC.

Our study holds significant importance in shedding light on the prevalence of neck and back pain among the younger population and its associated risk factors, particularly within the Tunisian context.

The prevalence of back and neck pain in children and adolescents is a matter of growing concern worldwide, and understanding its prevalence and risk factors is crucial for early intervention and prevention. Our study aimed to address this concern by conducting a comprehensive investigation into the prevalence of neck and back pain among children and adolescents aged 6 to 18 years in Tunisia.

We are committed to contributing valuable research to the academic community, and we believe that our work aligns with the goals and scope of your journal. However, the financial barriers we face pose a significant challenge in ensuring the publication of our research.

We kindly request your support in providing an APC waiver for our manuscript.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and understand that resources are limited. Nevertheless, we are hopeful that an APC waiver would enable researchers from underdeveloped countries like ours to contribute meaningfully to the scholarly community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.
I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ines Cherif
corresponding author

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