



Editorial

# Digestive and Liver Research: A New Journal for Excellence in an Evolving Discipline

Angel Lanas

Department of Medicine, University of Zaragoza, 50009 Zaragoza, Spain; [alanas@unizar.es](mailto:alanas@unizar.es)

Received: 12 June 2026; Accepted: 17 June 2026; Published: 2 July 2026

**How To Cite:** Lanas, A. Digestive and Liver Research: A New Journal for Excellence in an Evolving Discipline. *Digestive and Liver Research* 2026, 1(1), 1.

Science is undergoing a revolutionary period characterized by an exponential growth, unlike humankind has ever experienced. Biomedical science, in particular, is changing at a spectacular and rapid pace, that it is difficult to predict what medicine will look like in just 10 years. The field of medicine dedicated to the study and treatment of digestive diseases is no exception.

Knowledge is spreading rapidly, and it is almost impossible to keep up with the latest innovations and research. Within this complex landscape, it is hard to know which new biomedical innovations or research projects will be successful, have a real impact on patient's health and well-being, or are based on solid ground. Scientific journals have established rigorous communication over recent decades, allowing professionals to share advances, studies, opinions and critiques across fields.

Given the multitude of existing forms of scientific communication, launching a new scientific journal remains a huge challenge. If, moreover, it aims to stand out from the rest, contribute new ideas and become a dynamic forum where ideas and new advances are not only communicated but also discussed, the challenge is even greater. The launch of *Digestive and Liver Research* takes on this enormous challenge with enthusiasm.

One of the characteristics of modern medicine is its tremendous interdisciplinarity, and the digestive system, in particular, is a prime example of this. The gut, for example, beyond its role in providing nutrients to the body, functions as a 'second brain', as it contains some 400–600 million neurons that interact with the central nervous system via the vagus nerve; it also acts as an immune defence system of enormous importance, capable of modulating the overall immune response—including the response to cancer—and as a virtual endocrine system. These three axes share a common link: the gut microbiota, composed of trillions of bacteria and microorganisms that interact across these three axes and maintain homeostasis and balance essential for overall health [1].

Digestive and liver diseases affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide, placing a significant burden on healthcare systems, but given the interplay of the gastrointestinal tract with multiple organs and systems, the actual impact of digestive diseases could be much greater [2,3]. Furthermore, digestive and liver diseases are undergoing a period of profound transformation thanks to advances in molecular biology, microbiology, immunology and genetics, to name but a few examples. Given the nature of our specialty, technological advances—driven by biomedical engineering, robotics and artificial intelligence—are already transforming our approach to disease, enhancing the capabilities of the specialty through endoscopy, replacing surgery in many cases, and improving our precision in diagnosis and treatment [4]. Furthermore, artificial intelligence is radically transforming our clinical approach to patient care, making it difficult to predict its ultimate impact on the doctor-patient relationship. We could say that digestive and liver medicine cannot be understood today without interdisciplinary collaboration with all these fields.

It is within this context that the launch of *Digestive and Liver Research* aims to grow and make an impact on our specialty, and medicine in general, ultimately benefiting patients. Our focus is on the multidisciplinary and translational clinical approach, from any aspect of medicine related to the digestive system.

At the same time, we aim to elevate *Digestive and Liver Research* a journal of excellence, with scientific and adherence to the highest standards of quality and ethics, following the open science model. In this way and based



on our commitment to equity in scientific communication and dissemination of information, published findings will be available free of charge and immediately to doctors, researchers, and health policymakers worldwide.

*Digestive and Liver Research* accepts contributions from multiple fields, including gastroenterology, hepatology, pancreatobiliary diseases, gastrointestinal endoscopy, digestive system surgery, oncology, and digestive radiology, as well as, nutrition and metabolism, microbiology, immunology, pharmacology, epidemiology, public health, ethics, data science, translational medicine, organ regeneration, and personalized medicine. More specifically, *Digestive and Liver Research* accepts the full range of contributions, including inflammatory bowel diseases, gut-brain axis disorders, gastrointestinal cancers, pancreatic and biliary diseases, infectious diseases, alcohol-related liver disease, cirrhosis and liver transplantation, metabolic diseases, immune-mediated liver disorders, and advances in digestive endoscopy and surgery. We will devote particular attention to a rapidly expanding field with an impact on general health: the study of the gastrointestinal microbiota.

Accepted article type include original basic, clinical and translational research, comprehensive and systematic reviews, meta-analyses, methodological articles, clinical guidelines, expert opinions or consensus, and exceptional case reports that open up new perspectives and hypotheses.

Finally, it goes without saying that a journal such as the one we have just described is built on people and dedication. In this regard, I am sincerely grateful to the members of the Editorial Board who have already joined this project. Their knowledge, their experience across different disciplines, their scientific contributions of proven standing, and their commitment to quality and ethics are beyond doubt and will form the basis of the journal's success. As the journal grows, new experts from various disciplines will join, reflecting its international and multidisciplinary scope. Similarly, I wish to highlight the dedication of the editorial team at Scilight Press, which has been and will remain essential for this project to achieve its stated goals.

Digestive and Liver Research aims to be more than just a repository of articles. This is nothing new. We strive to be a scientific forum for innovation, open to the profound changes looming on the horizon, fostering patient-centred multidisciplinary research, and providing a solid foundation for decision-making based on scientific evidence and ethics.

We invite researchers, doctors, scientists, policymakers worldwide to contribute by submitting their work, serving as reviewers, or participating in the scientific debates. The future of the field of digestive and liver diseases will be defined by collaboration between the different disciplines of medicine, good science, methodological excellence, and the ability to translate discoveries into better outcomes for patients. Digestive and Liver Research is committed to being part of that collective effort.

### Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

### Use of AI and AI-Assisted Technologies

The editorial was fully drafted by the author. The AI tool “Claude” was used to refine the English language. Angel Lanas takes full responsibility for the content of the published article.

### References

1. Khan, M.T.; Zohair, M.; Khan, A.; et al. From Gut to Brain: The roles of intestinal microbiota, immune system, and hormones in intestinal physiology and gut-brain-axis. *Mol. Cell. Endocrinol.* **2025**, *607*, 112599. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mce.2025.112599>.
2. Peery, A.F.; Crockett, S.D.; Murphy, C.C.; et al. Burden and Cost of Gastrointestinal, Liver, and Pancreatic Diseases in the United States: Update 2021. *Gastroenterology* **2022**, *162*, 621–644. <https://doi.org/10.1053/j.gastro.2021.10.017>.
3. Ohara, T.E.; Hsiao, E.Y. Microbiota-neuroepithelial signalling across the gut-brain axis. *Nat. Rev. Microbiol.* **2025**, *23*, 371–384. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41579-024-01136-9>.
4. Fujishiro, M.; Kakushima, N.; Abe, S.; et al. World Endoscopy Organization Position Statements for Artificial Intelligence in Endoscopic Diagnosis of Gastric Epithelial Neoplasia. *Dig. Endosc.* **2026**, *38*, e70144. <https://doi.org/10.1111/den.70144>.