



## REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROMANIAN SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS WITH AFFILIATIONS TO ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS TO THE EMERGING COVID-19 INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE

Cosmin-Andrei CISMARU<sup>1</sup>, Ioana BERINDAN-NEAGOE<sup>1\*</sup>, Alexandru IRIMIE<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Research Center for Functional Genomics, Biomedicine and Translational Medicine,  
“Iuliu Hatieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

<sup>2</sup>The Oncology Institute “Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuta” – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

<sup>3</sup>Academy of Medical Sciences – Cluj-Napoca, Romania

*Corresponding authors:* prof. Ioana Berindan-Neagoe, Research Center for Functional Genomics, Biomedicine and Translational Medicine, “Iuliu Hatieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, 23 Gheorghe Marinescu street 400393 Cluj-Napoca, Romania.  
Email: ioana.neagoe@umfcluj.ro

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In the context of the current SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, Romanian scientists and researchers affiliated with Romanian institutions have issued a considerable number of publications both as main authors and as members of research groups. We analyzed an electronic database (PubMed) for all their indexed publications to assess the number of original articles, reviews, meta-analyses, case reports, letters, and guidelines issued from the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic until the present time. Our analysis shows that researchers affiliated with Romanian institutions have had considerable contributions to the existent COVID-19 literature consisting of both results of original research and practical and theoretical aspects of the disease’s management.

*Keywords:* COVID-19, Romania, affiliation, publications.

### INTRODUCTION

At more than one year from its emergence, the current SARS-CoV-2 pandemic continues to represent a global threat. From the very beginning of the contagion, scientists have embarked on an endeavor of deciphering the most important aspects of the pandemic, from the pathophysiological and clinical aspects of the disease to the economical, psychosocial, environmental, and geostrategic implications of the viral spread. The contribution of Romanian authors and researchers with affiliations to Romanian institutions to the emerging literature is noteworthy since an impressive number of publications in the COVID-19 field has been published from its emergence to the present time. Many articles have focused on the pathophysiological mechanisms of the viral infection<sup>1-4</sup>, drug repositioning<sup>5-11</sup>, drug development field<sup>12,13</sup>, association with other comorbidities<sup>3,14</sup>, clinical and histopathological findings in infected patients<sup>15,16</sup> and various other multidimensional

aspects of the disease and its medical and nonmedical implications.

### AIM

Our study aimed to evaluate the contribution of the Romanian scientists and researchers with affiliations to Romanian institutions (research institutes, hospitals, and universities) to the emerging COVID-19 literature.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

We performed a rapid and nonsystematic search of the literature using the keywords “COVID-19” and “Romania” to identify a wide set of references from an electronic database (PubMed), and grey literature from their inception until July 21, 2021. We included the publications into one of 5 categories: reviews, meta-analyses, original articles, case reports, letters, and guidelines.

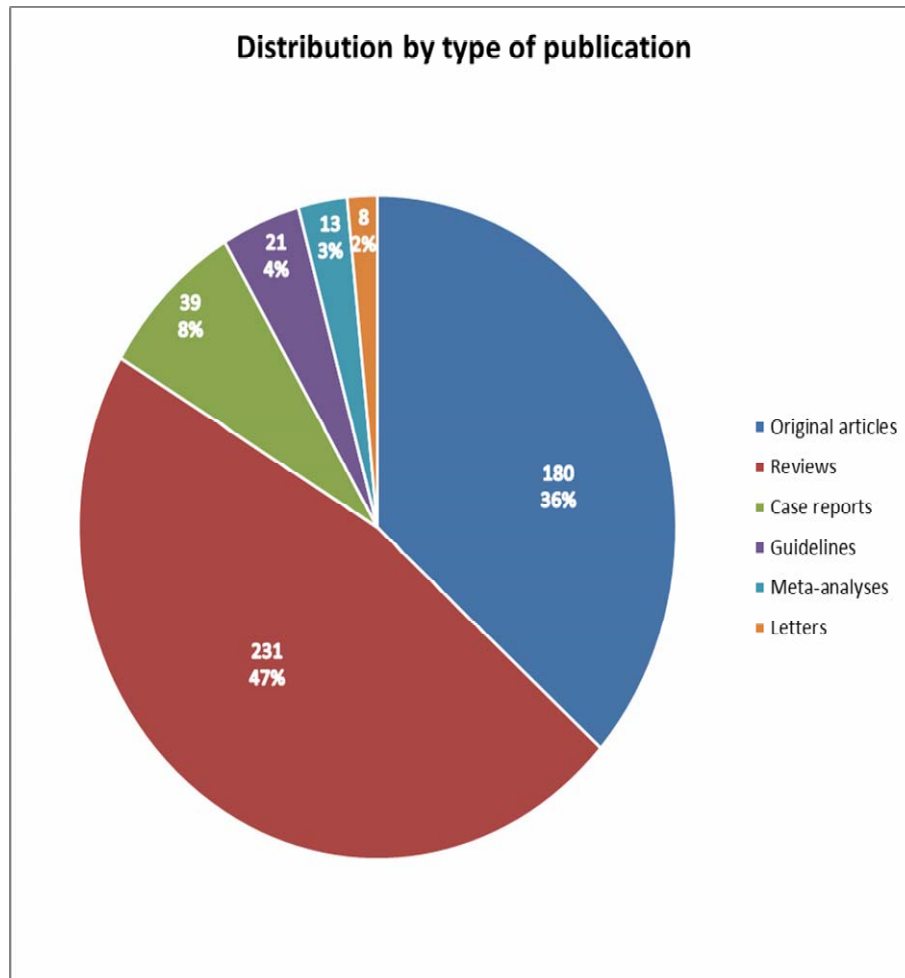


Figure 1. Distribution by type of publication of COVID-19 articles issued by authors with affiliations to Romanian institutions from their inception until July 21, 2021.

## RESULTS

The search returned 2171 publications which were further analyzed for a list of authors, affiliations, and type of publication. Among all the titles, 492 articles had Romanian authors and authors with affiliations to Romanian institutions (research institutes, hospitals, and universities). Regarding the distribution by publication type, 46% (n=231) were reviews, 36% (n=180) original articles, 8% (n=39) case reports, 4% (n=21) guidelines, 3% (n=13) meta-analyses and 2% (n=8) letters (Fig. 1). Studies were mainly focused on the physiopathological mechanisms of the viral infection, drug repurposing, mathematical models of the viral dynamics, effects of the viral infection on patients with preexistent comorbidities, guidelines and position papers of professional medical associations, surveys on the psychosocial implications of lockdown measures and reports on the clinical aspects of specific cases or series of

patients infected by the virus, although multiple other areas of the field were widely addressed.

## CONCLUSIONS

Our analysis showed that Romanian authors have been actively involved in the generation of research data for the emerging COVID-19 literature with a considerable contribution to the existent publications, both with original research results and with practical and theoretical aspects. This only reflects part of the real extent of the entire contribution since many publications authored by Romanian scientists or researchers with affiliations to Romanian institutions are indexed in databases other than PubMed and are continuously emerging.

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