

75 Years of Adventure in Turkish Scientific Medical Publishing: From *Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science* to *Turkish Journal of Hematology* (1951-2026)

Türk Bilimsel Tıp Yayıncılığında 75 Yıllık Serüven: *Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science*'tan *Turkish Journal of Hematology*'ye (1951-2026)

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Introduction

Scientific journals serve as far more than platforms for disseminating research findings. They are widely recognized as the institutional memory of professional disciplines and as vital mechanisms for preserving and transmitting scientific knowledge across generations. Within the history of Turkish scientific publishing, sustaining a distinguished journal for 75 years represents not only a remarkable achievement but also the safeguarding of a substantial institutional legacy.

In 2026, the Turkish hematology community celebrates the 75th anniversary of the *Turkish Journal of Hematology* (TJH) [1]. The journal traces its origins to *Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science* (ICCS), a scientific periodical launched in 1951. The establishment of ICCS and its transformation into TJH were made possible through the vision and dedication of two pioneering physician-scientists. The first was Erich Frank (1884-1957), a German-born physician who came to Türkiye following the University Reform of 1933 and played a pivotal role in shaping modern internal medicine and hematology in the country [2]. The second was his student and successor, Orhan Nuri Ulutin (1924-2011), who inherited Frank's scientific mission and transformed ICCS into the official journal of the Turkish Society of Hematology. Under Ulutin's leadership, the journal was renamed the *Turkish Journal of Haematology* in 1995, entering a new era of specialization and international visibility [3].

Today, most Turkish medical journals indexed in Science Citation Index (SCI) or Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-E) have histories spanning two to four decades. In contrast, TJH, with roots extending back to 1951, stands among the oldest living scientific legacies of Republican-era Turkish medical publishing. Its 75-year continuity represents not merely the anniversary of a journal but also one of the most significant chapters in the approximately 175-year history of Turkish scientific and medical publishing.

This review was prepared to evaluate the contributions of Erich Frank and Orhan Nuri Ulutin to ICCS/TJH and examine their roles in the advancement of scientific publishing and hematology in Türkiye.

Historical Position of *Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science* and *Turkish Journal of Hematology*

The history of scientific and medical publishing in Türkiye dates back to the nineteenth century, evolving in parallel with the modernization of the Ottoman Empire. Over time, publication languages, scientific content, and institutional structures underwent substantial transformation. While a comprehensive discussion of Turkish medical publishing lies beyond the scope of this review, a brief overview is essential to contextualize the historical position of ICCS/TJH (Table 1).

According to many historians of medicine, the first medical journal published in Türkiye—and the first scientific journal



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in Turkish—was *Vekayi-i Tıbbiye* (*Medical Cases*), first issued on March 25, 1849, by the Imperial School of Medicine (*Mekteb-i Tıbbiye-i Şahane*) [4]. This was followed by the *Journal of the Faculty of Medicine of Istanbul Darülfünun* (*Istanbul Dârülfünûnu Tıp Fakültesi Mecmuası*), founded in 1916 and continuing today as the *Journal of Istanbul Faculty of Medicine* [4,5]. Subsequent milestones included *Tedavi Notları* (*Treatment Notes*, 1925), later renamed *Dirim Medical Journal*, and *Tıp Dünyası Mecmuası* (*Medical World Magazine*, 1928) [6,7,8,9].

Within this continuum, ICCS emerged in 1951 and quickly became one of the leading scientific journals of the Republic of Türkiye. Internationally, it is noteworthy that *Blood*, the official journal of the American Society of Hematology and one of the most influential journals in the field, was founded in 1946 and is currently celebrating its 80th year of publication. The establishment of ICCS only 5 years later underscores the foresight and international outlook of Erich Frank and his colleagues. Having begun with *Vekayi-i Tıbbiye* in 1849, Turkish medical publishing entered a new phase in 1951 through ICCS. Published in German, English, French, and Turkish, ICCS represented one of the earliest examples of internationalized scientific publishing in Türkiye. It was also issued in Turkish under the title *Klinik İlmî* (*Clinical Science*) [1,2,3]. Across generations, these journals have served as witnesses to and carriers of scientific development in Turkish medicine.

Institutional Continuity and the Evolution of ICCS/TJH

From the perspective of institutional life-cycle theory, the uninterrupted publication of a scientific journal for 75 years represents a rare and remarkable achievement. Most corporations cease operations within a few decades, many non-governmental organizations fail to survive generational transitions, and numerous academic journals discontinue publication due to financial or scientific challenges. The longevity of a scientific journal is therefore an especially complex indicator of success, requiring not only organizational continuity but also sustained

academic productivity, scientific quality, rigorous peer review, editorial independence, and the trust of the research community.

Today, ICCS/TJH stands as one of the enduring institutional legacies that has witnessed the most recent 75 years of the 177-year history of Turkish medical publishing. TJH reflects not only the continuity of a scientific publication but also the cumulative scholarly heritage and institutional resilience of the Turkish hematology community across more than three generations. The initiative undertaken by Erich Frank in 1951 represented not merely the founding of a journal but also a milestone in the development of scientific publishing in Türkiye according to international standards. The journal's current standing is a tangible reflection of the scientific productivity and academic maturity achieved by the Turkish hematology community.

Looking back after 75 years, what emerges is not simply the history of a journal but the shared history of modern medicine, hematology, and academic publishing in Türkiye. Although ICCS initially began as a broad clinical science platform encompassing all fields of internal medicine, it evolved into a scientific journal recognized within the international hematology literature. A decisive role in this transformation was played by Orhan Nuri Ulutin, one of Erich Frank's students and subsequently one of the founding figures of Turkish hematology. The journal's current international standing and scientific reputation are the result of the dedication and contributions of successive generations of editors, whose names are presented in Table 2 [3].

The institutionalization of hematology in Türkiye accelerated following the establishment of the Society of Blood Diseases in 1967, later renamed the Turkish Society of Hematology. In 1971, ICCS became the official journal of the Society and continued publication under the title *New Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science*. As hematology-focused manuscripts gradually increased, the journal evolved into a specialized hematology periodical, culminating in its renaming as the *Turkish Journal of Haematology* in 1995 (subsequently *Turkish Journal of Hematology*). This was far more than a mere change of title;

Table 1. The place of *Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science* and *Turkish Journal of Hematology* in medical publishing from the Ottoman Empire to the present.

Journal	Year of establishment	Age (years)
<i>Vekayi-i Tıbbiye</i> (Medical cases)	1849	177
<i>Ceride-i Tıbbiye-i Askeriye</i> (Gülhane Medical Journal)	1872	154
<i>Istanbul Dârülfünûnu Tıp Fakültesi Mecmuası</i> (Istanbul Dârülfünûnu Faculty of Medicine Journal)	1916	110
<i>Tedavi Notları</i> (Dirim; Treatment Notes)	1925	
<i>Tıp Dünyası Mecmuası</i> (Medical World Magazine)	1928-1986	58
<i>Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science / Turkish Journal of Hematology</i>	1951	75
<i>Türkiye Tıp Encümeni Arşivi</i> (Archives of the Turkish Academy of Medicine)	1946-1966	20
<i>Türk Pediatri Arşivi</i> (Turkish Archives of Pediatrics)	1964	62
<i>Mikrobiyoloji Bülteni</i> (Microbiology Bulletin)	1967	59
<i>Türk Kardiyoloji Arşivi</i> (Archives of Turkish Society of Cardiology)	1971	55

it symbolized the strengthening of Turkish hematology's identity within the international scientific community.

During the editorial period of Hamdi Akan, the journal adopted international publishing standards, established peer-reviewed evaluation systems, strengthened ethics committees, improved research methodology, entered international directories such as SCI-Expanded and PubMed Central, and transitioned to online publication. This momentum was subsequently sustained through the leadership of Aytemiz Gürgey, Reyhan Diz Küçükkaya, and successive editorial boards. The principles of scientific publishing advocated by Erich Frank exerted a lasting, albeit indirect, influence on Turkish academic life and contributed significantly to the adoption of universal academic standards, particularly among younger generations of researchers.

Erich Frank and His Role in the Publishing History of the *Turkish Journal of Hematology*

Erich Frank (1884-1957) was one of the pioneering physician-scientists who contributed profoundly to the development of

modern hematology. His significance lies not only in his clinical and experimental achievements but also in his conviction that scientific knowledge must be systematically documented, critically evaluated, and disseminated through international scholarly platforms. This philosophy remains a cornerstone of contemporary academic publishing [10].

Major milestones in Frank's life prior to his arrival in Türkiye are summarized in Table 3. After graduating from medical school, he completed doctoral training and specialized in internal medicine. Before emigrating from Germany, he made several notable contributions to medical science, including the descriptions of orthostatic albuminuria, diabetes insipidus, essential hypertension, and essential thrombocytopenia. He also played a central role in the development of Synthalin B, one of the earliest oral antidiabetic agents [2,3,10].

With the rise of Nazism in Germany, Frank chose to relocate to Türkiye at the height of his academic career, bringing with him not only his family but also his extensive personal library.

Table 2. Editors and name changes from *Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science* to *Turkish Journal of Hematology*.

Years	Editor	Journal
1951-1957	Erich Frank	<i>Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science (Klinik İlmî)</i>
1962-2002	Orhan Nuri Ulutin	<i>New Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science</i> In 1967, the Turkish Society of Blood Diseases (Turkish Hematology Association) was founded In 1971, this journal became the official publication of the Turkish Hematology Association In 1995, it was renamed <i>Turkish Journal of Haematology</i>
2002-2005	Hamdi Akan	<i>Turkish Journal of Haematology/Hematology</i>
2006-2016	Aytemiz Gürgey	<i>Turkish Journal of Hematology</i>
2016-present	Reyhan Diz Küçükkaya	<i>Turkish Journal of Hematology</i>

Table 3. Major milestones in the life of Erich Frank prior to his arrival in Türkiye.

Year	Events
June 28, 1884	Born
1902	Entered the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Breslau
1907	Attended Kaiser Wilhelm University in Strasbourg; received his doctorate (PhD) in 1908 from the University of Strassburg with a thesis titled "Orthostatic Albuminuria"
1908-1911	Worked at the Municipal Hospital in Wiesbaden (while his doctorate was in progress); took on key roles in the clinical studies of Salvarsan, an important scientist of the period
May 16, 1918	Married Marie Gertrud Fühlich in Katowice
1912	Worked in the internal medicine clinic founded by Oscar Minkowski in Breslau; described diabetes insipidus
1913	Became an associate professor
1919	Became a professor
1925	Became Ordinarius Professor; it was shown that guanidine lowered blood sugar levels
1926	Revealed that blood sugar could be controlled orally with a substance called Synthalin; due to the side effects of Synthalin, he later developed Synthalin B, one of the earliest oral antidiabetic agents
1928-1933	Worked as full professor and chief physician at Wenzel-Hancke-Hospital in Breslau
1934	During the Nazi period, he was persecuted for his Jewish origins and his working conditions became difficult; he accepted a position offered by Istanbul University
September 1, 1934-February 13, 1957	As Chief of the Internal Medicine Clinic in Istanbul, he remained devoted to Türkiye until he died of liver disease at his desk in his clinic on the morning of February 13, 1957

At his request, his dietitian Elsa (Elizabeth) Wolf and biochemist Dr. Kurt Steinitz later joined him in Istanbul [2,10,11]. Between September 1, 1934, and February 13, 1957, Frank served as Chief of the Second Department of Internal Medicine at İstanbul Gureba Hospital. In addition to metabolic disorders, he conducted extensive research in endocrinology, the autonomic nervous system, and hematology [11].

During more than two decades of intensive academic activity, Frank trained numerous students who would later become leaders of Turkish medicine. His commitment extended beyond education and research to the care of underserved patients. Alongside Wolf and Steinitz, the Austrian pathologist Dr. Rosa Rössler joined his team and played a pivotal role in transforming Frank's lecture notes into textbooks that educated generations of Turkish physicians [12].

Frank remained devoted to Türkiye until his death on February 13, 1957. He passed away at his desk in the clinic he had led for over two decades and was buried as a Turkish citizen following a ceremony that reflected the extraordinary respect he had earned within Turkish society and medicine [2,3,11,13].

The influence of Frank's scientific methodology extended far beyond his own research. His emphasis on methodological rigor, evidence-based medicine, and interdisciplinary collaboration profoundly shaped subsequent generations of Turkish hematologists. The establishment of scientific societies, national congresses, peer-reviewed journals, and standardized research methodologies in Türkiye reflected principles that Frank had long advocated. The later success of the TJH, including its inclusion in international indexing databases such as PubMed Central and the SCI-E, can be viewed as a continuation of the scientific publishing culture initiated by Frank. His vision promoted transparency, methodological quality, editorial independence, and international scientific communication, principles that continue to guide the journal today [3].

Orhan Nuri Ulutin: The Scientist Who Transformed *Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science* into *Turkish Journal of Hematology*

Orhan Nuri Ulutin (1924-2011) was one of the foremost figures of the founding generation of Turkish hematology [14]. A review of the historical development of hematology in Türkiye reveals that the scientific tradition initiated by Erich Frank became institutionalized through Ulutin's leadership and was successfully transmitted to subsequent generations. While Frank established hematology as an independent discipline and laid its scientific foundations, Ulutin expanded this legacy and integrated it into the international research environment.

Frank's emphasis on clinical observation and laboratory-based investigation profoundly influenced Ulutin's academic career [15]. However, Ulutin broadened the scope of Turkish

hematology, extending research beyond clinical hematology into hemostasis, thrombosis, vascular biology, and experimental hematology. For this reason, Ulutin may be regarded not only as the most prominent representative of Frank's scientific school but also as a founding figure of the second generation of Turkish hematologists. He played a decisive role in the establishment and institutionalization of modern Turkish hematology and gained recognition as an internationally respected hematologist, scientist, and educator.

Ulutin was among the founding members of the Turkish Society of Hematology and served as its first Secretary General. Following Şeref İnceman, the Society's first president, Ulutin assumed the presidency and led the organization from 1969 to 1996 [16]. During this period, he was instrumental in organizing national congresses, standardizing specialist training, and strengthening international collaborations. His influence extended far beyond his scientific publications. Through the students he trained, the scientific culture he fostered, and his commitment to institutional development, Ulutin secured a distinguished place in the history of Turkish medicine.

Under his leadership, Turkish hematology established closer relationships with European and international hematology organizations, and hematology education in Türkiye achieved a more structured and sustainable framework. One of the most significant influences in Ulutin's career was his association with Erich Frank. As Frank's student, resident, and later colleague, Ulutin became one of the most important representatives of the Frank school of medicine. The major milestones of Ulutin's life and his relationship with ICCS/TJH are summarized in Table 4.

Among Ulutin's most enduring contributions was his commitment to scientific publishing. Following the interruption of ICCS after Frank's death, Ulutin revived the journal in 1962 and ensured its continuity. In 1971, the journal became the official publication of the Turkish Society of Hematology under the title *New Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science*. As hematology-related submissions increased, the journal gradually evolved into a specialized hematology periodical. This transformation culminated in 1995 when the journal was renamed the *Turkish Journal of Haematology* [3]. Beyond a simple modification of title, this change symbolized the maturation of Turkish hematology as an independent scientific discipline and its integration into the international scientific community. The foundations laid by Ulutin would later enable the journal to achieve broad international visibility and recognition.

Prof. Dr. Orhan Nuri Ulutin passed away on November 2, 2011, and was commemorated at a ceremony held at Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine [14,17]. In memorial statements published by the Turkish Society of Hematology, he was described as "the teacher of Turkish hematologists" and "one of the distinguished figures in the history of world hematology."

Table 4. Major milestones in the life of Orhan Nuri Ulutin and his relationship with ICCS/TJH.

Year	Event
December 30, 1923	Born in Istanbul
1941	Graduated from Bursa Boys' High School
1941-1947	Medical education at Istanbul Faculty of Medicine
1952	Completed internal medicine residency under Erich Frank; after specialization, conducted intensive research in the fields of hematology, hemostasis, and platelet biology
1953-1954	Military service; Erzurum Hospital, meeting with Mustafa Karaca
1959-1961	Worked on platelet research with Shirley A. Johnson and John Rebusk at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, USA
1960-1961	During his studies at Wayne State University in Detroit, he contributed to the discovery of protein C
1961	Became an associate professor of internal medicine
1962	As editor, continued the publication of the ICCS journal, which had been suspended after Frank's death in 1957
1962	As an active associate professor, entered Cerrahpaşa First Internal Medicine Clinic
1962	Passed the hematology specialization exam and became a hematologist
1966	Promoted to professor of internal medicine
1967	Founding member and first general secretary of the Society of Blood Diseases
1969	Became the president of the Society of Blood Diseases
1971	ICCS became the official publication of the Society under the name <i>New Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science</i>
1995	The name of <i>New ICCS</i> was changed to <i>Turkish Journal of Haematology</i>
1991	Retired
1991-1994	Gave lectures at Marmara University
1995	Elected Honorary Member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences
1969-1996	Served as the president of the Turkish Hematology Association
November 2, 2011	Passed away

ICCS: *Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science*; TJH: *Turkish Journal of Hematology*.

Conclusion

Although Erich Frank was not exclusively a hematologist, his role in founding and editing a clinical science journal created an important bridge between early internal medicine research and the specialized discipline of hematology that later emerged. His influence continues to be reflected in the editorial policies, scientific standards, and international visibility of contemporary Turkish hematology publications. Frank's primary expertise lay in internal medicine and nephrology, yet his editorial vision extended well beyond disciplinary boundaries. Together with his students, he contributed to the early characterization of hematological disorders such as essential thrombocytopenia and provided a platform through *Istanbul Contribution to Clinical Science* for the dissemination of hematologic research.

Following Frank's death in 1957, the journal continued its publication journey under the leadership of Orhan Nuri Ulutin and gradually evolved into a specialized hematology journal. Ultimately, it became the official publication of the Turkish Society of Hematology and was renamed the *Turkish Journal of Haematology* (subsequently *Turkish Journal of Hematology*).

The current status of TJH, including its indexing in PubMed Central, SCI-E, and other major international databases, reflects

the maturation of editorial principles whose foundations were established under Frank's leadership and strengthened by subsequent generations of editors. The contributions of Hamdi Akan, Aytemiz Gürgey, Reyhan Diz Küçükkaya, and numerous editorial board members have been instrumental in elevating the journal to its present international standing.

Seventy-five years after its foundation, TJH represents far more than the continuity of a scientific periodical. It embodies the collective scientific memory of Turkish hematology, the successful transmission of academic traditions across generations, and the enduring commitment of Turkish physicians and scientists to international scholarship. The history of ICCS/TJH is therefore not merely the story of a journal; it is a reflection of the broader evolution of modern medicine, hematology, and scientific publishing in Türkiye.

Footnotes

Conflict of Interest: Ahmet Muzaffer Demir previously served as Senior Advisory Board member of the journal. However, he was not involved in the editorial evaluation, peer-review process, or publication decision of this manuscript.

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