

News from Acta Dermato-Venereologica

Acta Dermato-Venereologica Becomes a Non-profit Journal and Moves Towards Open Access

New times, new ideas

Ever since its start in 1920, *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*, like most other non-profit and self-owned scientific journals, has collaborated with a professional publisher who traditionally converted a bunch of approved manuscripts into a nicely printed journal distributed to a negotiated list of subscribers. This process is technically demanding and has become increasingly expensive. Today there is a rapid move towards digital editing and e-subscription, i.e. computer-aided processes which can be readily accomplished by the journal's own editorial office. In the meantime expensive subscriptions to university libraries and society-based institutions who are already confronted with budget restraints, has become an increasing problem worldwide.

Despite an obvious success as conveyor of scientific information (*Acta Dermato-Venereologica's* latest impact factor is 1.6), the number of subscriptions has slowly declined over the years, a problem shared with most other specialist journals. Furthermore, a low exchange rate for USD has reduced our revenues from the publisher, and the competition for advertisers has become tougher. Finally, the cost of producing and distributing *Acta Dermato-Venereolo-*

gica has increased. This has together created a deficit in the economy. To our great satisfaction, however, the Welander-Finsen Foundations and the Swedish Society for Dermatology and Venereology have promised to help us economically for a period of 1-2 years while we transform the journal to a truly non-profit journal, published in its own right without the collaboration of a publisher who works for profit. In doing so, the grant suppliers recognize the importance of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* for spreading Nordic research results all over the world. We hope that our fellow-colleagues and institutions in other Nordic countries will feel the same and are prepared to support a bold change in publishing policy of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*. This can be done, for example, by maintaining institutional subscriptions of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* and by accepting society fees for group subscriptions. We also ask for your understanding of possible disadvantages during this critical transition process. One immediate consequence will be that the expensive production and distribution of a printed version of the journal will be minimized. We hope that you accept to have only e-subscription included in the society-based agreement, and are prepared to pay extras if you want the paper version. But most important of all, we hope that you will continue to read, cite and publish your good work in *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* so as to promote its role as a prestigious international journal with a Scandinavian flavour!

To give you additional background and more detailed information about the imminent changes, a quotation from *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* is included below.

Summary of Editorial in Acta Dermato-Venereologica vol. 85, issue 6

The Society for Publication of Acta Dermato-Venereologica has decided to end its collaboration with the Taylor & Francis Publishing Group as of December 31, 2005. From volume 86 onwards *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* will act as its own publisher and in doing so we envisage several advantages. The publication costs will be reduced, as there will be no extra-hands between the editorial office and the printer. The whole process will now adhere to non-profit rules, and access to medical research in *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* will in the future be enhanced because the journal will be free to move on its own, accelerating pace, toward the goal of freely available open access electronic publication. Ultimately, and with your support, we will be able to change the financing of Acta Dermato-Venereologica from being mainly subscription-based to that provided by page charges and advertisement income. In the short-term, however, we will depend on continued support and interest by all our institutional and individual subscribers, presently nearly 1,800 in number.

This change of policy by *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* is in line with the worldwide trend of attempting to

provide greater access to the results of scientific research, as shown by the Berlin declaration in 2003, and perhaps best expressed in the new rules for NIH and Wellcome Trust grant holders. For instance, the Wellcome Trust, the world's biggest research charity now demands that the final manuscripts of all authors' research papers are deposited in PubMed Central – the free-to-access life sciences repository, developed by the National Library of Medicine. Papers deposited in this repository must be made freely accessible no later than 6 months after publication. Furthermore, many universities have proposed that recipients of their research council grants should place a copy of the published journal articles in an e-print repository on university or subject-based websites. This is in line with the intentions of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* and in this way, the research papers will be given

greater potential audiences – anyone with Internet access will be able to read them without restriction. By our adhering to these regulations, we believe we will also further increase the impact of the research published in our journal.

The ability to freely increase the number of published pages will also be of benefit for our authors since this will cut the queue of accepted papers waiting for publication. Time from submission to publication will shorten.

From 2006 we will introduce differential publication fees: Ordinary page charges (and colour illustration fees); lowered page charge on special request (e.g. for authors from developing countries, authors with economic restraints, etc.); fees for

Open Access within 6 months; fees for immediate Open Access.

Needless-to-say, this transformation of editorial and publishing procedures require initial investments and manpower to secure a smooth transition. Therefore, although we are a non-profit organisation, we still have to stick to subscription fees for at least another period. When all changes are implemented the publication costs will be substantially reduced and we will thus know how the page charges have to be adjusted to secure an economy in balance.

More information about the new publishing system, the modified instructions to the authors and the new price list for subscription as of 2006 can be found at www.medical-journals.se.



Ove Bäck
Chairman



Anders Vahlquist
Editor-in-Chief



Agneta Andersson
Editorial Manager

The Society for Publication of Acta Dermato-Venereologica

Information regarding access to Acta Dermato-Venereologica 2006 for all members of the Nordic dermatological societies

As a consequence of the new arrangement regarding *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* you will from 2006 not receive this journal on paper, but will still have full electronic access. **We therefore need your e-mail address** to be able to send you an alert each time a new issue is available online. You will be further informed about user name and password later.

However, you can choose to subscribe to the paper version of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* for SEK 600 per year. See the order form below.

Regarding *Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology* this journal will also in the future be presented both on paper, distributed to all the members of the Nordic Societies, as well as electronically.

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