

ActaDV 100 Years – An Incomplete History and Current Status of the Journal

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The advance of medical science during the early 1900s inspired many clinical disciplines to issue new multi-lingual periodicals in Scandinavia. To highlight an international ambition, several of the journals were given Latin names, Acta Chirurgica, Acta Paediatrica, etcetera. Following this trend, Acta Dermato-Venereologica (ActaDV) was founded in 1920 by Professor Johan Almkvist at Karolinska Institutet. Below, important milestones in Acta DV's development over 100 years are described together with fresh information about the journal's performance and planned centenary activities.

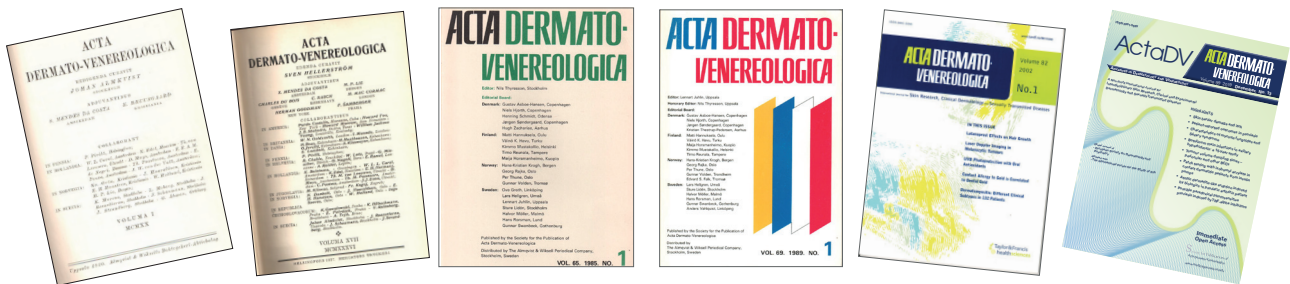


Fig. 1. The changing face of Acta Dermato-Venereologica. Left to right: Year 1920, 1936, 1985, 1989, 2002, and 2019.

Examples of ActaDV's front pages during one hundred years are shown above. From the start in 1920, ActaDV was privately owned by Johan Almkvist (Fig. 2), who occupied the only Swedish Chair in Dermatology and Syphilidology at the time. The journal was initially trilingual (English, French, German) with appointed co-editors from Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. For over a decade the journal content was dominated by syphilis and its skin manifestations, later outweighed by papers on more general topics of Dermatology and Venereology.

In 1936, Sven Hellerström, professor *in spe* at Karolinska Institutet, took over as editor (see Fig. 2). Except for an understandable decline during the war (volume 23 combines papers from both 1942 and 1943), the journal subsequently prospered with many contributions now coming from outside Europe. Hence English became compulsory for ActaDV.

After an astonishing 33 years as editor, Hellerström handed over to Nils Thyresson, the new professor at Karolinska in 1969 (see Fig. 2). Concurrently, ActaDV was donated to a newly started, non-profit Swedish society with a sole responsibility of publishing the journal. Together with his wife Inga-Lisa (as editorial secretary) and a board consisting of the chairpersons

of Dermatology and Venereology in the Nordic countries, Nils Thyresson further developed ActaDV into an esteemed and steadily growing journal. On retirement, he moved the editorial office to his private home in Uppsala and continued as editor for another 6 years.

In 1988, Professor Lennart Juhlin of Uppsala University took over as editor and recruited Ms Agneta Andersson as editorial assistant & manager, a position she has now held for 32 years(!). Together they modernized the journal both in terms of lay-out (see Fig. 1) and handling of manuscripts, all in co-operation with Scandinavian University Press and later Taylor & Francis (TF) as publisher. In parallel, the ActaDV society started Forum for Nordic Dermatology and Venereology. By attracting more advertisements from industry, this journal could partially balance the falling revenues from subscriptions seen also for many other medical journals in the 1990s (this was largely due to economic constraints imposed on public libraries and an increase in digital reading).

In 1999, when I took over as editor of ActaDV, the economy was steadily problematic and our long-standing contract with TF was felt like a straight-jacket, financially as well as publicity-wise. Hence, in 2003 the Board decided that ActaDV should

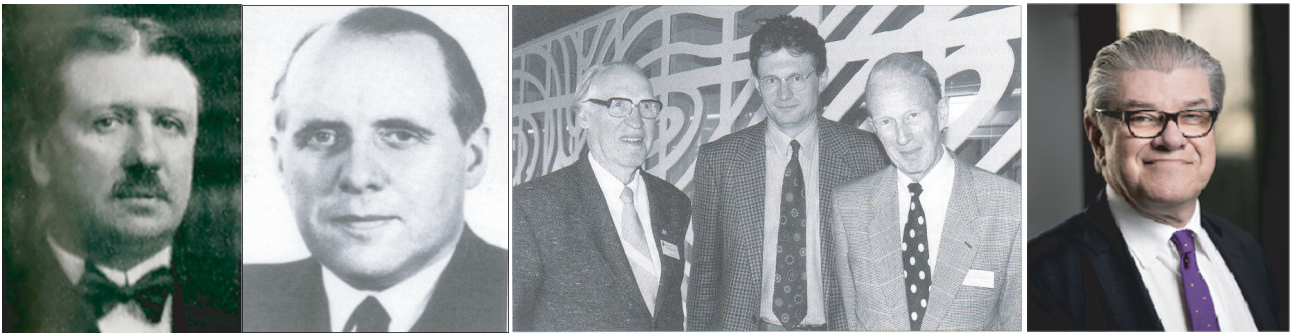


Fig. 2. Six of the Editors over 100 years (from left to right: Johan Almqvist, Sven Hellerström, Nils Thyresson, Anders Vahlquist, Lennart Juhlin (jointly portraited in 2000) and Olle Larkö.

continue on its own, i.e. without a commercial publisher, and to move rapidly toward open-access (OA) and digital publication, requiring our economy to be based on publication fees rather than subscriptions. This major undertaking had not been possible without the superb help of Agneta Andersson, the ActaDV Board members, including Ove Bäck, Mona Stähle,

Inger Rosdahl, and the co-editors Torbjörn Egelrud and Artur Schmidtchen, and several other domestic as well as international colleagues.

These and other important moments in the history of ActaDV are summarized in Fig. 3.

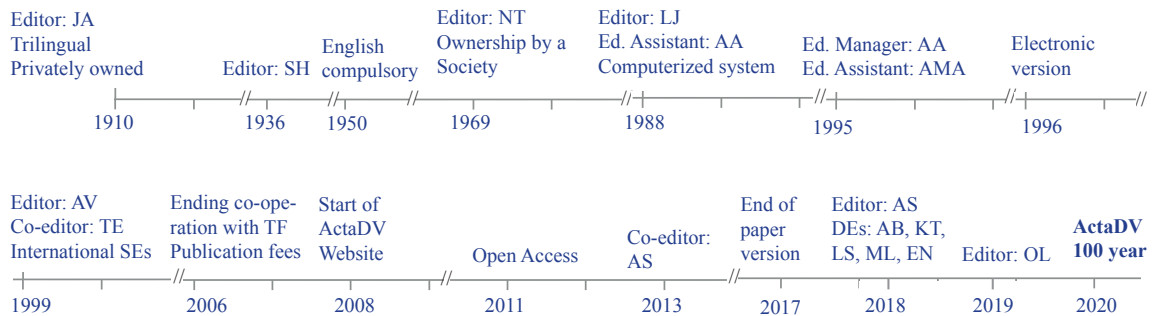


Fig. 3. Time-line of Acta DV's development and significant mile stones. AA: Agneta Andersson; AB: Anette Bygum; AMA: Anna-Maria Andersson; AS: Artur Schmidtchen; AV: Anders Vahlquist; DE: Deputy Editors; EN: Elisabet Nylander; JA: Johan Almqvist; LJ: Lennart Juhlin; KT: Kaisa Taasanen; LS: Lone Skov; NT: Nils Thyresson; OL: Olle Larkö; SE: Section Editors; SH: Sven Hellerström; TE: Torbjörn Egelrud; TF: Taylor & Francis



Fig. 4. The Editorial Office and two of its staff, Agneta Andersson (Editorial Manager) and Anna-Maria Andersson (Senior Editorial Assistant.).

Today, ActaDV is thriving as an on-line OA journal, produced entirely in-house by an editorial team (Fig. 4), which shares office and staff with Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine. The editorial board, now led by Professor Olle Larkö, Sahlgrenska Academy, Gothenburg (see Fig. 2), also consists of 4 Deputy Editors (3 women; 1 man), 17 Section Editors (8 women; 9 men) and an Advisory Board embracing distinguished colleagues from around the world.

For many years, the journal has also benefitted from a collaboration with two international societies, IFSI (International Forum for Study of Itch) and ESDaP (European Society for Dermatology and Psychiatry), which *inter alia* has added valuable scientific expertise to the peer-review process.

Presently, ActaDV publishes 250–300 papers per year with manuscripts submitted from all corners of the world, though

mostly from Europe and Asia. In addition, nearly 300 supplements have been published since 1920. The current acceptance rate is around 50% and the impact factor, which has markedly risen since 2000, is now in the order of 4.

On the occasion of ActaDV's 100-year anniversary, a series of centenary issues will be published in volume 100 (see content list below) and a one-day symposium will be arranged in Stockholm (see separate announcement on page 137 in

this issue), collectively called: "Frontiers in Dermatology and Venereology".

Hopefully this initiative will further spur the research interest in our speciality and contribute to a continued success of our journal.

Literature

Juhlin L. Acta Dermato-Venereologica 1920–1995. Acta Derm Venereol 1995; 75: Suppl 194.

Thyresson N, editor: Acta Dermato-Venereologica. In: Svensk Dermatologi-Venereologi. SSDV 2001; p. 95–99.

Frontiers in Dermatology and Venereology Centenary theme issues in Volume 100 of Acta Dermato-Venereologica

Itch and pruritic disorders

Theme editors: Elke Weisshaar, Tasuku Akiyama and Jacek Szepletowski

- The Challenge of Basic Itch Research, E. Carstens, T. Follansbee, M.I. Carstens
- Mechanisms and Management of Itch in Dry Skin, C. Sagita Moniaga, M. Tominaga, K. Takamori
- Non-dermatological Challenges of Chronic Itch, A.E. Kremer, T. Mettang, E. Weisshaar
- Itch and Psyche: Bilateral Associations, R. Reszke, J.C. Szepletowski
- A New Generation of Treatments for Itch, E. Fowler, G. Yosipovitch
- Challenges in Clinical Research and Care in Pruritus, M.P. Pereira, C. Zeidler, M. Storck, et al.

Psoriasis

Theme editors: Lone Skov and Enikő Sonkoly

- Psoriasis and Genetics, N. Dand, S. Mahil, F. Capon, C.H. Smith, M.A. Simpson and J. Barker
- The Woronoff Ring in Psoriasis and the Mechanisms of Postinflammatory Hypopigmentation, J. Prinz
- Psoriasis and Treatment: Past, Present and Future Aspects C. Reid, C.E.M. Griffiths
- Psoriasis and Co-morbidity, M. Amin, E.B. Lee, T-F. Tsai, J.J. Wu
- Pustular Psoriasis: The Dawn of a New Era, H. Bachelez

Blistering skin disorders

Theme editor: Kaisa Tasanen

- Collagen XVII Processing and Blistering Skin Diseases, W. Nishie
- Current Concepts of Dermatitis Herpetiformis, T. Salmi, K. Hervonen
- Skin Fragility: Perspectives for Evidence-based Therapies, L. Bruckner-Tuderman
- Drug Development in Pemphigoid Diseases, K. Bieber, R.J. Ludwig
- Bullous Drug Reactions, M. Mockenhaupt

Genodermatoses

Theme editors: Anette Bygum and Matthias Schmuth

- News and views on disorder of keratinization: Jouni Uitto
- Ichthyosis: A road model for skin research: Anders Vahlquist
- Genetics of ARCI and related diseases: Judith Fischer
- Diagnosis and management of disorder of palmoplantar keratodermas: Edel O'Toole
- An Early Description of a "Human Mosaic" Involving the Skin: A Story from 1945: R. Happle
- Ehlers Danlos Syndrome: Ines Kapferer and Johannes Zschocke
- Legius syndrome and its relationship with neurofibromatosis type 1: Erik Legius
- Genetic autoinflammatory skin disorders: Karoline Krause

Skin malignancies

Theme editors: Veronique Bataille and Nicole Basset Seguin

- Melanoma risk and melanocyte biology, J.U. Bertrand, E. Steingrimsdottir, F. Jouenne, B. Bressac-de Paillerets, I. Larue
- Melanoma genomics, J. Newton-Bishop, D.T. Bishop, M. Harland
- Melanoma epidemiology and sun exposure, S. Raimondi, S. Gandini
- It-s not all sunshine: non sun related melanoma risk factors, V. Bataille
- Cutaneous Melanoma – A Review of Systemic Therapies, K. Lee, P. Nathan
- Biomarkers Predicting for Response and Relapse with Melanoma Systemic Therapy, S.J. Welsh, P.G. Corrie
- Update in the management of basal cell carcinomas, N. Basset-Seguín, F. Herms
- Update in the management of epidermoid carcinoma; Eve Maubec

Atopic dermatitis

Theme editors: Magnus Lindberg and Carl-Fredrik Wahlgren

- Genetics in Atopic Dermatitis: Historical Perspective and Future Prospects, S.J. Brown, M.S. Elias, M. Bradley
- Atopic Dermatitis: Counting up the Burden, F.M. Ai, J. Vyas, A.Y. Finlay
- The skin microbiome in atopic dermatitis: S. Edslev, T. Agner, P. Skytt Andersen
- A Therapeutic Renaissance- Emerging Treatments for Atopic Dermatitis, C.H. Na, W. Baghoomian, E. Simpson
- Disease mechanisms in atopic dermatitis: a review on etiological factors, J.P. Thyssen, M.R. Rinnov, C. Vestergaard
- Prevention of atopic dermatitis, H. Williams, J. Chalmers

Cutaneous and genital infections

Theme editors: Roderick Hay and Kristian Kofoed

- Skin infections caused by Staphylococcus aureus, P. del Giudice
- The management of scabies in the 21st century: past, advances and potentials, C. Bernigaud, K. Fischer, O. Chosidow
- Skin Disease in the tropics and the lessons that can be learned from leprosy and other neglected diseases, R.J. Hay
- The Changing spectrum of STI in Europe: Angelika Stary
- A hundred years of diagnosing superficial fungal infections: Where do we come from, where are we now and where would we like to go? Y. Gräser, D.M.L. Saunte