

EDITORIAL

Highlights from the annual report 1999 and some changes in the editorial policy concerning supplements

When I took over as Editor-in-Chief of Acta D-V in January 1999 the way had already been paved for a continued improvement of the Journals impact factor, which has steadily increased since the mid 1990s. No surprise therefore that the factor has again risen from 1.091 in 1997 to 1.139 in 1998 (the ISI figures for 1999 will not be available until October this year). This ranks Acta among the 10 leading journals on dermatology and sexually transmitted diseases in the world! Furthermore, in a recent review in Archives of Dermatology (1) looking at the citation frequencies over a longer period of time, Acta was ranked no. 5 among dermatological journals. Nevertheless, we need to continue our efforts to improve the journal, both by trying to attract an increasing number of high impact manuscripts and by producing a journal which is swiftly published and stimulating to read both on paper and on the net.

In 1999 the Editorial office received a total of 326 manuscripts, 162 of which were eventually rejected after peer review (acceptance rate about 50%). Out of 160 published papers, many were accepted only after prior editing into a Letter to the Editor — a demand almost invariably accepted by the authors. Thus, out of a total of 512 pages in volume 79, 372 pages were full reports and 123 pages contained Letters. The manuscripts originated from 32 different countries, with a predominance of submissions from Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Sweden, Denmark, Spain and USA (in that order). This underlines the truly international character of Acta, as does the review process. Each manuscript is peer reviewed by 2–3 experts, and in 1999 more than 200 referees from all over the world helped us in this important task. Their assistance was recently acknowledged (2). I am also grateful to the 5 Section Editors for efficiently helping me to select the best papers and to Mrs Agneta Andersson for so skilfully running the Editorial office. Acta has about 1900 subscribers around the world, a figure which has remained fairly constant over the years. It is conceivable, however, that publication over the net has further improved the availability of the journal since 1998.

Complementary to subscriptions are the supplements which usually accompany each issue of Acta. Traditionally, these supplements have mostly contained summaries of doctoral theses from various Scandinavian departments of

Dermatology and Venereology, i.e. publications that are not frequently referred to in the international literature. Presumably, this has had a negative effect on the impact factor of our journal, a fact also noted by other journals (3). As of this year we have therefore stopped publishing doctoral theses, a decision facilitated by the fact that recent financial restrictions have reduced the willingness of many universities to pay the fairly high cost of printing supplements. Instead, we encourage publication of Scandinavian doctoral theses as supplements to the Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology, another journal issued by the Acta D-V Society but without intention to become international.

The policy of the Editorial Board of Acta is now only to consider for publication as supplements only high impact articles which either represent extensive original work and expert reviews too long to be published as regular papers in Acta, or comprise a selection of maximally 6 high quality original papers from a recent international scientific meeting of direct interest to our readers. Two good examples accompanied no.2 of present volume, i.e. Ågren et al., (4) and Forslind et al. (5). It is the hope of the Editorial Office that this new direction in supplement policy will further increase our readers' interest in Acta.

REFERENCES

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Anders Vahlquist
Editor-in-Chief