

## EDITORIAL

## ***Acta Dermato-Venereologica* becomes its own Publisher and Moves Towards Open Access**

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 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 at its own and accelerating pace towards 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 from all our institutional and individual subscribers, presently numbering nearly 1800. We hope that you, as a reader of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*, will help us to maintain this high subscription number in the forthcoming few years by asking your university or medical librarian to continue subscribing to the journal after we end our contract with Taylor & Francis.

This change of policy by *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* is in line with the worldwide trend of providing greater access to the results of scientific research, as set out in the Berlin Declaration on Open Access in 2003, and perhaps best expressed in the new rules for National Institutes of Health (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 online life sciences repository, developed by the National Library of Medicine. Papers 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 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 have greater potential audiences – anyone with Internet access will be able to read them without restriction. By adhering to these regulations, we believe that we will

also further increase the impact of the research published in our journal (the impact factor of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* for 2004 is 1.585; a figure that has steadily increased during the last 10 years).

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

We will also offer our authors a "Preprint" service, whereby once a paper is accepted and edited the manuscript will be accessible on the Internet and can be cited by its specific DOI number until it is finally published in an issue.

The ongoing worldwide change in the financing of scientific communication is both a cause and a result of many new changes we are witnessing. Many universities around the world have cut, and are planning to cut further, their library subscription costs, which have risen faster than inflation. Instead, funders will increasingly cover publication fees as they do other consumable costs. We are also wedded to the idea of being non-profit and to have our costs in the future covered by publication fees instead of subscriptions.

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.medicaljournals.se/adv](http://www.medicaljournals.se/adv).

Finally, since this is the last issue of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* published in collaboration with Taylor & Francis we wish to thank our friends at their Scandinavian branch in Stockholm for many years of fruitful collaboration.

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The Society for Publication of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*