



Editor-in-Chief
Peter Vedsted, MD
Editorial Office
Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen
Research Unit for General Practice
Aarhus University
Bartholins Allé 2, DK-8000 Aarhus C
Denmark
Tel +45 8716 8059
Fax +45 8612 4788
E-mail: sjphc@alm.au.dk
www.sjphc.org

April 2013

Editor-in-Chief's report (April 2012 to April 2013) for the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care, part of the Nordic Federation of General Practice (NFGP)

First, I would like to thank the NFGP and Gisle Roksund and the team in particular for good support in the past year where we have had the possibility to provide family medicine, and in particular the Nordic family medicine, with a high-impact journal. SJPHC enjoys high esteem within societies of family medicine. Then, I would like to thank the group of national editors and national assistant editors for having done such a brilliant and profound work in selecting and reviewing manuscripts and to have supported that being an author also is a position where you need sensible and quick feedback. I wish to thank the national editors for a fantastic and kind atmosphere and dedicate the Journal's success to them. Next, I wish to thank Tina Pedersen and Peter Torsten Sørensen for very professional support and the secretary of the journal, Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen, for helping us with all the necessary practicalities including daily correspondence and the logistics. We have a very smooth and perfect secretariat for the Journal editors.

Editorial group

The editorial board has consisted of:

Denmark:

Jørgen Nexøe, national editor
John Brodersen, assistant editor

Finland:

Helena Liira, national editor
Markku Timonen, assistant editor

Iceland:

Emil Sigurdsson, national editor
Kristjan G. Gudmundsson, assistant editor

Denmark	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Sweden
Sen. researcher Jørgen Nexøe Research Unit of General Practice University of Southern Denmark JB Winsløvs Vej 9A DK-5000 Odense C Tel +45 6550 3055 Fax +45 6550 3980 E-mail: jnexoe@health.sdu.dk Assistant editor: John Brodersen, Copenhagen	Ass. Professor Helena Liira Dept. of General Practice and Primary Care University of Helsinki P.O. Box 20 Tukholmankatu 8 B FIN-00014 Helsinki Tel +358-50 577 1351 Fax +358-9 191 27536 E-mail: Helena.liira@helsinki.fi Assistant editor: Markku Timonen, Oulu	Ass. Professor Emil Sigurdsson Dept. of Family Medicine University of Iceland Nesvegur 16 IS-107 Reykjavik Tel +354-550 26 00 Fax +354-550 26 01 E-mail: emilsig@hi.is Assistant editor: Kristjan G. Gudmundsson, Reykjavik	Professor Anders Bærheim Division for General Practice P.O Box 7804 NO-5020 Bergen Tel +47 55 58 61 40 Fax +47 55 58 61 30 E-mail: anders.baerheim@isf.uib.no Assistant editor: Morten Lindbæk, Oslo	Ass. Professor Hans Thulesius Landstinget Kronoberg Unit for Research and Development, Box 1223 SE-351 12 Växjö Tel +46-470 586397 Fax +46-470 586290 E-mail: hans.thulesius@ltkronoberg.se Assistant editor: Cecilia Björkelund, Göteborg

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Anders Bærheim, national editor

Morten Lindbæk, assistant editor

Sweden:

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Cecilia Björkelund, assistant editor

Editor-in-Chief Peter Vedsted

Editorial secretary: Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen

The Journal

The production of the paper version has been on schedule in 2012/13. The manuscripts are produced and published continuously on the web-based part of the journal on the Informa web-site. This gives us an important possibility to publish articles as soon as we accept them and the authors have approved the proof. In this way the articles are often used in e.g. PhD dissertations and in other papers. This is very important to the Journal.

The Journal is an Open Access Journal which is now recommended by all publicly funded research funds. Thus, research results supported by these funds now have to use an open access journal, and SJPHC fulfils this requirement. Further, everybody can access the Journal and download a pdf-version of each article. Especially tools like PubMed are very useful in these matters. Unfortunately, we still experience some problems with the Open Access but Informa has been very efficient in correcting the access.

From 2012, we have finally got all papers published on the PubMedCentral (PMC). We are very satisfied with this.

For each of the Nordic colleges, the editorial secretary has received lists of people who would like the paper version of the Journal. Informa takes care of the distribution and receives updated lists from the editorial secretary.

From Informa we receive e-mail alerts, first when articles are early online and then when a full issue is online. Everybody can subscribe for this e-mail alert. For every new issue this e-mail alert is sent to a representative for each of the Nordic colleges by the Journal's editorial secretary. It is then forwarded to all members.

2012/13 have been years with a high number of submitted manuscripts to the Journal. We have for this report period received 210 manuscripts and have accepted 36 (17%). The acceptance rate was at the same level as former years. We have an unchanged number of submissions from the Nordic and other European countries such as the Netherlands, Germany, and the U.K. The time from first submission to decision is on average 8.4 weeks. There have been 540 reviews and an external review took 2.7 weeks on average from acceptance to review to receipt of review.

The present publication fee is 1000€. Publication is free if the first author is a member of one of the national member organisations of NFGP.

The Journal's impact factor was 2.054 in 2012, which is the 2nd rank within primary care and family medicine. It is anticipated that this impact factor will decrease slightly over the next year or two due to a reduced number of self-citations for each paper published. The strategy is to increase the number of citations in other journals.

Editorial work

The full editorial board met in Copenhagen in May 2012 and in Antwerp in October 2012. The latter due to the EGPRN-meeting which took place at the same time. The minutes from the meetings can be forwarded on request. The meetings were very intense and productive with serious discussions on how to increase the quality of papers, standards for papers, qualitative research, the editorial line and a lot of very useful practical arrangements.

The main issue at the Antwerp meeting was the future online version of the SJPHC and the preformed platform for this. See later.

The editorial board is characterised by very enthusiastic, competent and skilled editors, and this is of huge value for the Nordic scientific quality in general practice research and for the NFGP.

Collaboration with the publisher Informa

The collaboration with the publisher Informa has been excellent. We have solved the PubMedCentral issue in 2012, which is very important to the Journal. We have also solved the problems with the delayed Open Access and hope that we will now have this facility functioning from the publication date. The director of the NFGP, Peter Torsten Sørensen, has been in charge of the specific financial and budgetary matters (please consult the report from the director). However, there has been a good and important liaison between NFGP and the editorial office in relation to the Journal's economy.

Practical handling of manuscripts

The handling of the manuscripts is based on the software called Manuscript Manager. This software is a web-based application which works very well for the purpose of handling the Journal. In taking into consideration the work that would be needed for changing to another system, we have decided to continue using Manuscript Manager (MM). The cooperation with the developer of MM has been excellent.

30th year anniversary

2012 has been the 30th volume of the SJPHC. We have published a paper from Johann Sigurdsson on the issues. At the Nordic Congress in Tampere we hope that NFGP will participate in marking the special 30th year anniversary.

Future for the SJPHC

The contract with Informa has been suspended by the end of 2013. This is due to decreasing royalties from subscriptions. This means that 2013 will be the last year with SJPHC as a paper-based journal, and from 2014 we will be an online journal only and still with Open Access. We have been negotiating with different providers and have produced different scenarios which will have to be negotiated further after the NFGP spring meeting.