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### **Editor-in-Chief's report (April 2013 to April 2014) for the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care (SJPHC), part of the Nordic Federation of General Practice (NFGP)**

Let me start by expressing my deepest thanks to the NFGP, the director, the chairman, the NFGP secretary and the whole team for their fantastic support and dedicated work. In the past year, SJPHC has had the possibility to provide new knowledge in family medicine in a high impact journal. SJPHC enjoys high esteem within the societies of family medicine, and we have also managed to become an original part of the Nordic Congress with the Paper of the Year Awards.

I especially wish 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; as an author you need constructive and quick feedback. I wish to thank the national editors for a fantastic and kind atmosphere; I dedicate the Journal's success to them. Next, a special thank to the secretary of the journal, Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen, for helping us with all the necessary practicalities including daily correspondence and logistics. We have a very smooth and perfect secretariat for the Journal editors.

#### **Editorial group**

The editorial board consists 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.

**Norway:** Anders Bærheim, National Editor, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 Guri Rørtveit, National Editor.  
Morten Lindbæk, Assistant Editor, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 Anja Maria Lyche Brænd, Assistant Editor.

**Sweden:** Hans Thulesius, National Editor, Cecilia Björkelund, Assistant Editor

**Editor-in-Chief:** Peter Vedsted

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## **The Journal**

The production of the paper version ceased from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. The manuscripts are produced and published continuously on the web-based part of the Journal on the Informa web-site. From 2014, this will be the only place where papers are published. This gives us an important possibility to publish articles after acceptance and approval of proof. The online-only version allows us to publish additional material and longer papers. Yet, we still publish four paginated issues each year (March, June, September and December).

The Journal is an Open Access Journal, which is now recommended by all public 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 and PubMedCentral (PMC) are very useful in these matters.

When a new issue is online, the Nordic colleges will receive an alert mail with the table of contents of the new issue, and the colleges will then send the alert mail to members. From Informa, we will receive e-mail alerts when articles are early online and when a full issue is online. Everybody can subscribe for this e-mail alert.

For this report period, we have received 205 manuscripts and have accepted 29 (14%). However, it should be noted that some of the submissions are not finally reviewed yet. We have a low number of Danish and Finnish submissions compared to earlier years. Most submissions come from Sweden and the Netherlands. The time from first submission to decision is on average 7.5 weeks, which is one week faster than in 2012/13. An external review took 2.1 weeks on average from acceptance to review to receipt of review.

The Journal's impact factor was 1.905 in 2013, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> rank within primary care and family medicine. We expect this impact factor to decrease slightly over the next year or two due to a reduced number of self-citations for each paper published, and we aim to increase the number of citations in other journals.

## **Editorial work**

The editorial board met in Copenhagen, Denmark in May 2013 and in Tampere, Finland in August 2013. The latter in connection with the Nordic Congress. We have decided that we will combine the Nordic congresses and the editorial meetings whenever possible. Meeting minutes 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 other useful practical arrangements.

The main theme for the Tampere meeting was the online version of the SJPHC and the platform for this. Håkan Pårup from Informa participated in this agenda item, which was very important and helpful.

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.

We welcome two new editors from Norway; Guri Rørtveit and Anja Maria Lyche Brænd, who took over from Anders Bærheim, National Editor and Morten Lindbæk, Assistant Editor, respectively. Huge and well-deserved thanks to Anders and Morten and a warm welcome to Guri and Anja (see also SJPHC, Mar 2014, Vol. 32, No. 1: 3).

## **Collaboration with the publisher Informa**

The collaboration with the publisher Informa has been good. We have solved all emerging problems, which is very important to the Journal. We changed from paper journal to only-online journal. 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). In particular the new contract is under negotiation, and there has been a good and important liaison between NFGP and the editorial office in relation to the Journal's economy and development. Peter Vedsted and Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen have had a meeting with Informa about the layout etc. We are following up on this.

The SJPHC had the opportunity to publish abstracts from the international conferences for Ca-PRI. However, Informa's price was higher compared to other journals. The European Journal of Cancer Care then had the opportunity to publish the abstracts.

#### **Author fee**

From November 2013, SJPHC changed the publication fee so that members must pay 400 Euros and non-members pay 1,200 Euros for having a paper published. The administration is done in collaboration with Informa.

#### **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 consideration of 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.

#### **30-year anniversary**

At the Nordic Congress in Tampere, we had a special 30-year anniversary lecture held by Johann Sigurdsson. It was of high value and considerable impact and was really what the Congress also needed: a historical review of who we are and where we come from. Thank you very much, Johann!

#### **Paper of the Year**

The Paper of the Year Awards 2011 and 2012 were presented at the Nordic Congress in Tampere. This new initiative was a huge success as well as enjoyable for all parties. We will continue with this and start preparations for the 2013 and 2014 awards.

#### **Future for the SJPHC**

The contract with Informa was terminated by the end of 2013 owing to decreasing royalties from subscriptions. This means that we will have a new contract from 2014. At the moment, we have no contract. After negotiations with different providers, the NFGP decided to continue the negotiations with Informa.