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Editor-in-Chief's report (April 2014 to April 2015) for the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care (SJPHC), part of the Nordic Federation of General Practice (NFGP)

Another year has passed and SJPHC has again entered a new era. We are now a fully, only online, open access journal. And this year we have had an author fee for all although differentiated between member and non-members of the Nordic colleges. This transformation could not have happened without extensive help from all. Let me express my deepest thanks to the NFGP, the director, the new chairman, the NFGP secretary and the whole team for their fantastic and dedicated work. 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 editors for a fantastic and kind atmosphere; I dedicate the Journal's success to them. Next, special thanks to the secretary of the journal, Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen, for helping us with all the necessary practicalities including daily correspondence and logistics. We owe Dorthe that SJPHC is a reality. I also must thank Informa's staff for smooth and swift support and Andy for always fast support to the Manuscript Manager.

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, VACANT, Assistant Editor.

Norway: Guri Rørtveit, National Editor, Anja Maria Lyche Brænd, Assistant Editor.

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

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The Journal

The manuscripts are produced and published continuously on the web-based part of the Journal on the Informa web-site. We have now had this for a year. It is the impression that this form of publication is very much appreciated by the societies and researchers and we have not had negative feedback on the lack of hard-copy versions. It has given a short publication time from acceptance and until official publication at the web-site and PubMed. The online-only version allows us to publish additional material and longer papers which we are still to evaluate and develop. However, it is definitely increasing our reputation among researchers.

The Journal is an Open Access Journal, which is now recommended by all public research funds. We have applied for being listed in the DOAJ database for approved open access journals. Everybody can access the Journal and download a pdf-version of each article for free (e.g. via PubMedCentral (PMC)).

When a new issue is online, the Nordic colleges 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 243 manuscripts and have accepted 44 (18%). However, it should be noted that submission and acceptance does not cover the same period. We have most submission from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands.

The Journal's impact factor was 1.61 in 2014. We expected this fall in impact factor as we have reduced the number of self-citations for each paper published. We still aim to increase citations in other journals. This is continuously followed at the Thompsons.

Editorial work

The editorial board met in Copenhagen, Denmark in April 2014 and in Bergen in November 2014. Both meetings also in connection with the meetings in WONCA Europe 2016 Scientific Committee. We will try and combine our meeting with Nordic congresses and the editorial meetings whenever possible. Thus, in the fall 2015 we will try to arrange an editorial meeting in Istanbul as this is also the final Wonca Europe Conference before the one in Copenhagen in 2016.

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. It has been a pleasure to welcome two new editors from Norway; Guri Rørtveit and Anja Maria Lyche Brænd.

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. The director of the NFGP is in charge of the specific financial and budgetary matters (please consult the report from the Director). In particular, a new contract has been implemented and it is important that we follow-up on that in NFGP.

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. This is very competitive compared to other open access online journals. The administration is done in collaboration with Informa. The negotiated revenue is transferred from Informa to NFGP.

Practical handling of manuscripts

The handling of the manuscripts is based on the software called Manuscript Manager (MM). This software is a

web-based application which works well for the purpose. The cooperation with the developer of MM has been excellent and an update is implemented spring 2015.

Paper of the Year

The winners of the Paper of the Year Awards 2013 and 2014 has been chosen by the Board and will be presented at the Nordic Congress in Gothenburg. They are: Holgeir Skjeie, et al. (N) "Acupuncture for infantile colic. A blinding-validated, randomized controlled multicentre trial in general practice", Paper of the Year 2013.

Maarit Nevalainen, et al. (Fin) "Medical errors and uncertainty in primary healthcare: A comparative study of coping strategies among young and experienced GPs", Paper of the Year 2014.

Peter Vedsted, Aarhus

Editor-in-Chief

Professor