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Editor-in-Chief's 2015/16 report for the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care (SJPHC), part of the Nordic Federation of General Practice (NFGP)

The 33rd year has passed and SJPHC is again going to enter a new era. As a grown-up, online only, open access journal, the Editor-in Chief will from 2016 be Professor Helena Liira. Helena has been the national editor for Suomi for many years and is a very experienced editor and scientific writer. The SJPHC will be in the best hands and I wish Helena all the best and congratulations with her new family.

Editorial work

The Editorial Board met in Copenhagen, Denmark in April 2015 and in Istanbul in September 2015. Both meetings were held in connection with the meetings in WONCA Europe 2016 Scientific Committee. We try to combine our meeting with the Nordic congresses and the editorial meetings whenever possible. For many members of the Editorial board, 2015 has also been the year with the WONCA Europe Conference 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. From 2016, John Brodersen will end his job as assistant editor to Jørgen Nexøe in Denmark. Member of the WONCA Scientific Committee, Anne Møller, has been proposed as the successor. A new Finnish national editor will have to be appointed to succeed Helena.

Editorial Board:

Denmark: Jørgen Nexøe, National Editor, John Brodersen, Assistant Editor.

Finland: Helena Liira, National Editor (to be replaced in 2016), 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

Editor-in-Chief: Peter Vedsted/Helena Liira

Editorial secretary: Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen/Mark Philips

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The Journal

The manuscripts are produced and published continuously on the web-based part of the Journal (<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ijpri20#.VtV7nvhDmE>). We have changed website as Informa is now a part of Taylor & Francis which is our new publisher. This form of publication is very much appreciated by the societies and researchers. It has given a short publication time from acceptance until official publication at the web-site and PubMed. The online only version allows us to publish additional material and longer papers.

The Journal is an Open Access Journal, which is now recommended by all public research funds. We have applied to be 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 with the table of contents of the new issue, and the colleges will then send the alert mail to members. Everybody can subscribe for this e-mail alert directly at the website as well.

For this report period, we have received about 120 manuscripts and have accepted 40. However, it should be noted that submission and acceptance does not cover the same period and that a software-update makes the numbers uncertain. We have most submissions from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands.

The Journal's impact factor was 1.3 in 2015. Deliberately, the Editor-in-Chief had worked for this lower IF as that would give the possibility to negotiate better with e.g. European Journal of General Practice. It is now up to NFGP to consider this possibility. Otherwise, the IF can be increased again.

New publisher

SJPHC now has Taylor & Francis as publisher as Informa is now part of this. The collaboration has been fine and seamless as the same group from Informa is still connected to SJPHC. We have solved problems continuously and T&F has been active in promoting the journal. The director of the NFGP is in charge of the specific financial and budgetary matters.

Author fee

In 2013, SJPHC changed the publication fee so that members pay 400 Euros and non-members 1,200 Euros for publication. This is very competitive compared to other open access online journals. The administration is done in collaboration with T&F. The negotiated revenue is transferred to NFGP.

Practical handling of manuscripts

The handling of the manuscripts is based on the software Manuscript Manager (MM). This software was updated in 2015 and the platform is now better and works well for the purpose. The cooperation with the developer of MM has been excellent.

Paper of the Year

Based on the success of The Paper of the Year Awards which were presented in Tampere and Gothenburg, we have decided to formalise this further. To make the final decision on who should receive the award, five prominent researchers from each of the Nordic countries have agreed to form the committee. These are:

Denmark: Frede Olesen

Finland: Kaisu Pitkälä

Iceland: Hannes Hrafnelsson

Norway: Kirsti Malterud

Sweden: Cecilia Björkelund

They will prior to the Nordic Congress make the final decision based on the proposals from each national college and the Editorial Board.

Postlude

The transformation from a paper version to a fully open access, online only journal and with longer manuscripts and additional files has now been implemented. This transformation could not have happened without extensive help and support from all. Let me express my deepest thanks to the NFGP, the director, the chairman, the NFGP secretary and the whole editorial 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. Personally, I wish to thank the editors for some fantastic years and the kind and respectful atmosphere; you are a great family! Next, SJPHC would not exist if it had not been for the secretary of the journal, Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen. We owe Dorthe that SJPHC is a reality.

Dorthe and I now hand over the job to Helena and Mark Philips with respect and honour.

Peter Vedsted, Aarhus

Editor-in-Chief, Professor