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Editor-in-Chief's report 2017

The year 2017 was not without challenges for the Journal. First, the intended change to the Publisher's management system, Editorial Manager, did not proceed as expected. It was delayed and caused unexpected problems. In the database of reviewers the keywords and Scandinavian letters were lost which made the review process difficult. After consultations, in June it was decided to return to the previous Danish editorial system Manuscript Manager. Second, there were changes in the editorial team. In summer, the Norwegian editor Guri Rørtveit got major new responsibilities and left the team. Mark Phillips was replaced by Pauliina Ilvespakkka as the editorial assistant.

Despite the challenges, the team worked hard, the problems with the editorial systems were overcome and papers were published almost as usual. The impact factor rose for the second year in row from 1.556 to 1.726. The editorial team also organized the selection of Paper of the Year 2015 and 2016 and the winners were celebrated at the opening ceremony of the Nordic Congress for General Practice 2015 in Reykjavik, Iceland in June 2017. Both winners were rewarded participation free of charge to the Nordic Congress, and were given a specific time slot at one of the congress sessions to present the Paper and the research it constitutes.

The winners were:

2015: Marijke Talsma, Kristina Bengtsson Boström & Anna-Lena Östberg

2016: Kristine Heitmann, Hans Christian Svendsen, Ingvild Sporsheim & Lone Holst



Guri Rørtveit and Gisle Roksund donating the SJPHC Paper of the Year awards to Marijke Talsma and Kristine Heitmann

Editorial team

The editorial team met twice: in April in Copenhagen and in October linked to a general practice conference in Zagreb, Croatia. The members of the SJPHC editorial team are presented in Table 1. Guri Rørtveit was replaced by Svein Kjosavik from University of Bergen in the beginning of 2018. The Finnish National Editor Tuomas Koskela announced his wish to leave the team in the end of March 2018, and the Finnish society chose Prof Päivi Korhonen to take over. The position of Assistant editor in Iceland continues to be vacant.

Table 1. SJPHC National and Assistant Editors in the beginning of 2018

Country	National Editor	Assistant Editor
Denmark	Ass. Professor Jørgen Nexøe, University of Southern Denmark	Anne Møller, University of Copenhagen
Finland	Dr Tuomas Koskela, University of Tampere (finishes his term 31.3.2018) Prof Päivi Korhonen, University of Turku (started 1.1.2018)	Prof Markku Timonen University of Oulu
Iceland	Ass. Professor Emil Sigurdsson, University of Iceland	Vacant
Norway	Ass Prof Svein Kjosavik, University of Bergen	Dr Anja Maria Lyche Brænd, University of Oslo
Sweden	Ass Prof Hans Thulesius, Lund University	Prof Cecilia Björkelund, University of Gothenburg

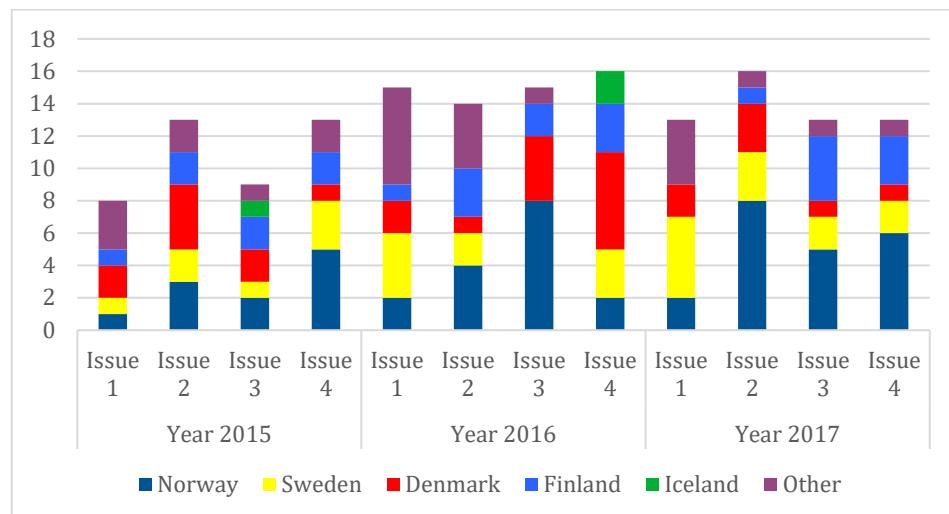
Published papers

The challenge with the editorial systems caused extra work and some delays with papers.

Therefore, the number of published papers in 2017 was 55, which is five less than the maximum possible in the contract with the Publisher.

Figure 1 presents the published papers per country and per issue. The largest number of papers was 21 from Norway and there was a steady flow of papers from Sweden, Finland and Denmark. There were seven papers outside the Nordic countries and most of them were from the Netherlands.

Figure 1. Papers in the SJPHC in 2015 – 2017 per country and per issue

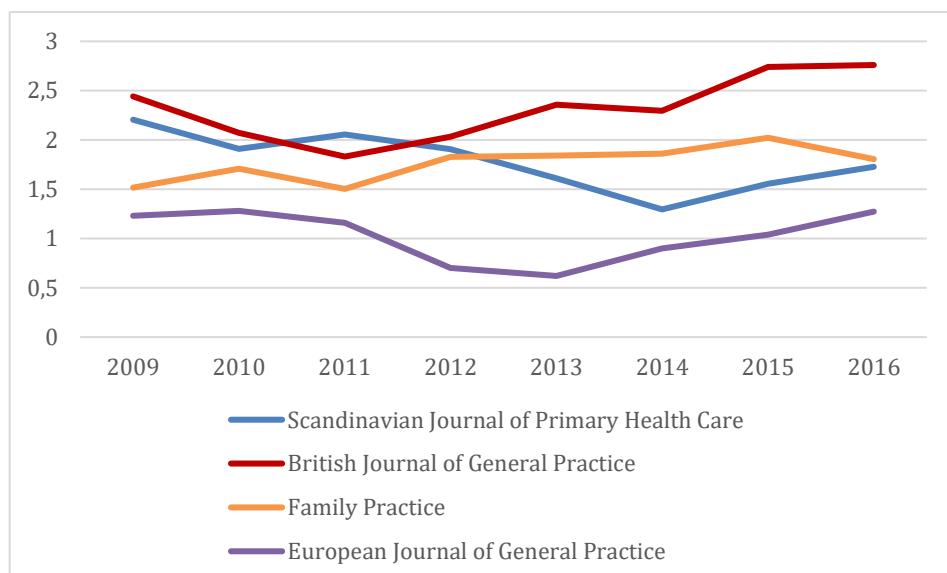


Journal impact factor (JIF)

The aim of SJPHC is to be among the best journals in general practice. The most important competitors include British Journal of General Practice, Family Medicine and European Journal of General Practice. The 2016 impact factor was 1.726 and rose for the second year in row. The current competitive situation with the SJPHC impact factor is presented in Figure 2.

The impact factor is important for those who consider submitting their paper to the Journal. The editors look after the impact factor by making sure that previous research in the Journal is cited. This is a way to keep Nordic general practice research in focus and a policy which benefits also the future authors of the Journal. The aim with the impact factor is to bring it again over 2.0 where it was in 2009.

Figure 2. SJPHC impact factor 2009 – 2016



Contract with the publisher and finances

The contract with Taylor & Francis was continued until the end of 2019, and the next potential time to cut the contract is in March 2019. The pricing level of the electronic publishing has not been tested since the beginning of the open access system. A tendering process is planned in 2018 to make sure the pricing level of the contract is correct.

The publication fees were augmented in 2017 for papers that were submitted after 1st March 2017. The fees are in fact open access fees and they were on a lower level than those in the competitive journals. The publication fee for non-members increased from 1200 euros to 1500 euros and that of members from 400 euros to 500 euros. This change guaranteed that despite the lower number of published papers, the income of the journal did not drop in 2017.

Plans for the 2018

With two new national editors in the team, it is time to re-visit the editorial practices and processes. The motivation to perform the editorial work unpaid derives from academic interest and willingness to support general practice research. The editors form a strong network of general practice academics. In 2018, we will plan again an editorial workshop for the next Nordic conference in Aalborg, Denmark.

Finding reviewers has been a constant challenge for the journal. In 2018, we will give a 15% reduction in the publication fees for reviewers for one year after the review to reward the valuable work of reviewing. We will also examine whether linking the reviews to the Publons system is something to motivate the reviewers.

Finally, I give my warmest thanks to the excellent group of editors and the team at NFGP. It is a true pleasure working with all of them.

Helsinki March 2018

Helena Liira
Editor-in-Chief