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Editor-in-Chief's report 2018

Year 2018 was a good one for the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care with no major challenges and the editorial work running smoothly. The editorial team worked hard and waiting times were kept in control. The average time from submission to first decision (first round of peer review) was 57 days and to acceptance 155 days. The number of submissions increased slightly and the journal impact factor rose to 1.809.

Editorial team

The editorial team met twice: in April in Copenhagen and in October in Turku, Finland. The members of the SJPHC editorial team are presented in Table 1. Professor Päivi Korhonen from Turku started as the Finnish National Editor and Associate Professor Svein Kjosavik from University of Bergen as the Norwegian National editor in the beginning of 2018. Ass Prof Malene Plejdrup Hansen from Aalborg University will replace Dr Anne Møller in the beginning of 2019. The position of Assistant editor in Iceland continues to be vacant.

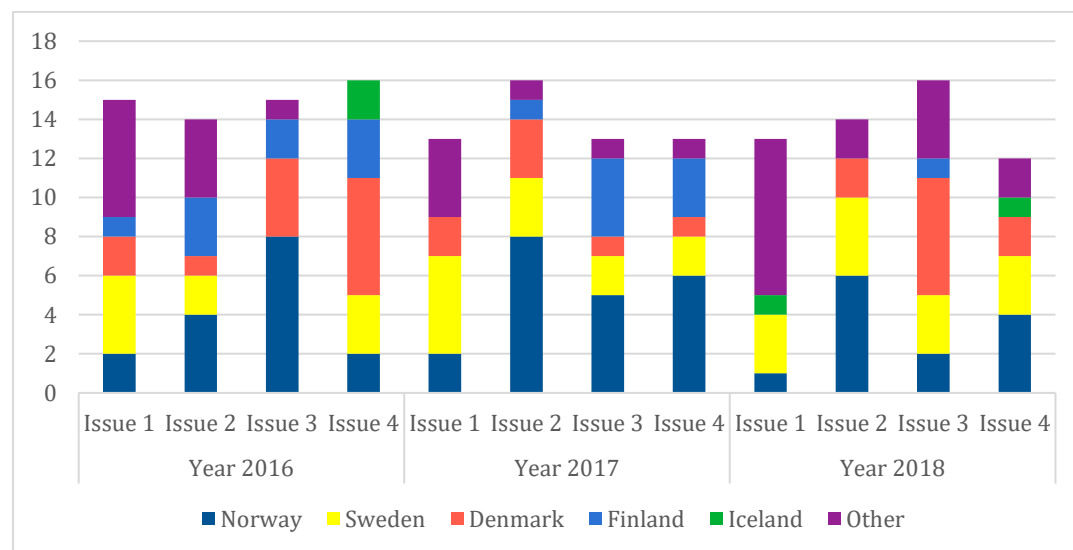
Table 1. SJPHC National and Assistant Editors in the beginning of 2019

Country	National Editor	Assistant Editor
Denmark	Ass Prof Jørgen Nexøe, University of Southern Denmark	Dr Anne Møller, University of Copenhagen From 1/2019 Ass Prof Malene Plejdrup Hansen, Aalborg University
Finland	Prof Päivi Korhonen, University of Turku	Prof Markku Timonen University of Oulu
Iceland	Ass Prof 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 number of published papers in 2017 was 54. **Figure 1** presents the published papers per country and per issue. There were 13 papers from both Sweden and Norway, 10 from Denmark and very few papers this year from both Finland and Iceland. Altogether 16 papers came outside the Nordic countries and most of them were from the Netherlands.

Figure 1. Papers in the SJPHC in 2016 – 2018 per country and per issue.

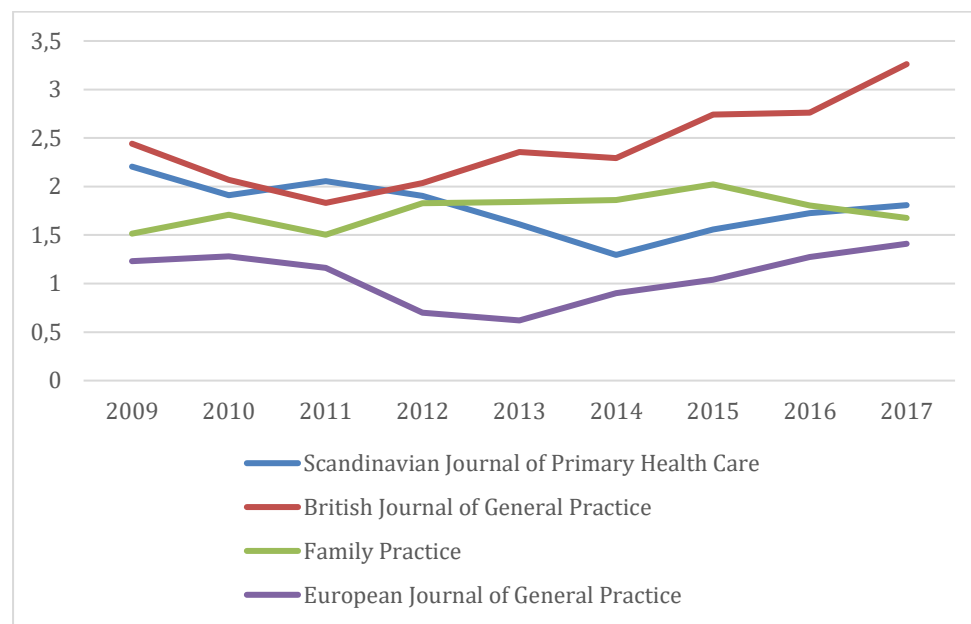


Journal impact factor (JIF)

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 impact factors are released in June for the previous year. The 2017 impact factor for the SJPHC was 1.809 and rose for the third 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 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 – 2017



Contract with the publisher and finances

The editorial work is performed with Manuscript Manager, a software program by a Danish company. This software has got actively developed during the last years, which has made finding reviewers a little easier. Former authors of the SJPHC can now be easily invited to peer review.

The publishing contract with Taylor & Francis continues. During 2018, three other publishing houses were contacted to check whether the pricing level of the electronic publishing is correct. The tendering process produced useful information but did not lead to changes of the publisher. The relationship with T & F is long lasting and the cooperation runs smoothly.

The publication fees of SJPHC were increased in 2017 and during 2018 we did not make changes in the fees. The publication fee for non-members remains 1500 at euros and that of members is 500 euros. In 2018, 59% of papers were from members from the national colleges and the income of the journal from electronic publishing fees was 41,500 €.

Plans for the 2019

With two new national editors in the team, there is opportunity to have new insight into the editorial practices and processes. The editorial team meets twice a year to discuss the development of the journal. In 2019, we will organize an editorial workshop at the Nordic conference in Aalborg, Denmark. The winners of the Paper of the Year 2017 & 2018 will be announced at the conference as well.

Finally, running the journal would be impossible without the dedicated team of National and Assistant editors and their efforts in the editorial work. The team at NFGP has been helpful at all times and our editorial assistant Pauliina Ilvespakka has kept the process well going. My warmest thanks to everyone in this great group.

Helsinki February 2019

Helena Liira
Editor-in-Chief