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Editor-in-Chief's report (July 2011 to April 2012) for the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care, part of the Nordic Federation of General Practice (NFGP)

This being my first Editor-in-Chief's report to the NFGP gives me the pleasure to first of all thank the Federation for my appointment as Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care. First, I would like to thank the former Editor-in-Chief Jakob Kragstrup and his secretary Lise Stark for handling over the editorial office in such a smooth way. Then, I would like to thank the group of national editors and national assistant editors for having welcomed us in such a fantastic and kind atmosphere. From the first day in the job I have only experienced full support and have received a lot of good advice and always constructive feedback. Next, I wish to thank the new secretary of the journal, Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen, for having taken over the job as editorial secretary in a way that I certainly could not have expected. Not only full support and the daily correspondence, but she also takes care of the logistics in a way that we already have achieved a very smooth and perfect secretariat for the Journal.

Finally, I would like to thank the NFGP and especially the Anna Staudal, Gisle Roksund and the director Peter Torsten Sørensen for making it possible to continue the Journal and the job as Editor-in-Chief. Together with Tina Pedersen, they have made it possible for us to start up in a very professional way.

Editorial group

Editor-in-Chief Jakob Kragstrup handed over the job to me in July 2011. At the same time a new Danish national editor was appointed: Jørgen Nexøe, Odense. Further, the Danish assistant editor Thomas Drivsholm was replaced by John Brodersen, Copenhagen. I would like to thank Thomas Drivsholm for his excellent work for many years as an assistant Danish editor.

The editorial board consists of:

Denmark:

Jørgen Nexøe, national editor
 John Brodersen, assistant editor

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Finland:

Helena Liira, national editor

Markku Timonen, assistant editor

Iceland:

Emil Sigurdsson, national editor

Kristjan G. Gudmundsson, assistant editor

Norway:

Anders Bærheim, national editor

Morten Lindbæk, assistant editor

Sweden:

Hans Thulesius, national editor

Cecilia Björkelund, assistant editor

Editor-in-Chief Peter Vedsted

Editorial secretary: Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen

The Journal

The production of the paper version has been on schedule in 2011 and 2012. The manuscripts are produced and published continuously on the web-based part of the journal on the Informa web-site. This gives us an important possibility to publish articles as soon as we accept them and the authors have approved the proof. In this way the articles are often used in e.g. PhD dissertations and in other papers. This is very important to the Journal.

The internet version of the Journal has Open Access which means that everybody can access the Journal and download a pdf-version of each article. And this is free for everybody. Especially tools like PubMed are very useful in these matters. Unfortunately, we have experienced some problems with the Open Access but Informa has been very efficient in correcting the access. We now feel this problem is solved.

We still need the Journal to be uploaded at PubMed Central. This has been agreed upon with Informa for some years now and we will discuss this matter further with them.

For each of the Nordic colleges the editorial secretary has received lists of people who would like the paper version of the Journal. Informa takes care of the distribution and receives updated lists from the editorial secretary.

From Informa we receive e-mail alerts with new content of the Journal and it is possible for everybody to subscribe for this e-mail alert. For every new issue this e-mail alert is sent to a representative for each of the Nordic colleges by the Journal's editorial secretary. It is then forwarded to all members.

2011 and 12 have been years with the highest number of submitted manuscripts to the Journal. We have for this report period received more than 210 manuscripts. The acceptance rate in 2011 was at the same level as former years. The increased number of submissions is partly due to several more manuscripts received from other European countries such as the Netherlands, Germany, UK, etc.

The present submission rate has not been affected by the publication fee of 1000€.

The Journal's impact factor was 1.9 in 2011 which was a small decrease from the previous 2.2. It is anticipated that this impact factor will decrease slightly over the next year or two due to a reduced number of self-citations for each paper published. The strategy is to increase the number of citations in other journals.

Editorial work

The full editorial board met in Helsinki in September 2011. As this was the first editorial meeting with a new Editor-in-Chief, every national and assistant national editors were invited. The meeting was a fantastic success and brilliantly arranged by the Finnish hosts. Before the editorial meeting the Finnish hosts had arranged a symposium at the University of Helsinki where the editorial board presented aspects of publishing in family medicine.

The editorial meeting was very productive and we especially had good discussions about how to increase the quality of papers, how to ensure that we publish good qualitative research with good impact for family medicine, and a lot of very useful practical arrangements. 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 NFGP.

Collaboration with the publisher Informa

The collaboration with the publisher Informa has been excellent. We have had some issues that should be solved, and the publisher has been very quick in solving these problems and very kind when handling our requests.

We will again this year discuss with Informa how we can proceed and succeed in getting the Journal published as a part of the PubMed Central. The editorial office regards this as very important.

As the structure of the NFGP has changed, the Editor-in-Chief is no longer in a position to report on the financial aspects of the Journal which is now fully in the hands of the director of the NFGP, Peter Torsten Sørensen. For specific financial and budgetary matters please consult the report from the director. However, it will be very important for the NFGP to continuously liaise with the editorial office and the publisher in relation to the economy of having a paper-based version of the Journal.

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 taking into consideration 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.

30th year anniversary

2012 is special as the Journal now comes out in the 30th volume. It is now 30 years since the first issue of the Journal was published in the Nordic countries, and in relation to that we will in 2012 publish a few papers from some of the more experienced researchers with in the field from different Nordic countries.