

EDITORIAL

The new face of Acta Dermato-Venereologica

This issue in many ways represents a face-lift of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*. The most obvious change is in the layout of the cover, which has remained the same since the late 1980s. Everything has been changed on the front cover, except for the printing style of the journal's name, which dates back to the start of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* in 1927. In case you have problems understanding the designer's intention with the background pattern, it represents a handprint, symbolizing skin in contact between individuals, as in dermatology and venereology. The back cover too has been changed into a more reader-friendly fashion. We – the Editorial Board and the publisher Taylor & Francis – hope that you will find the new look of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* attractive.

From a scientific point of view, a far more important change of the journal from this volume onwards is the recent appointment of two new Section Editors, *Professor Martin Röcken* and *Professor Jonathan Rees*. I am very pleased to welcome these distinguished scientists to the Board. Professor Röcken received his medical and scientific training in Munich, Geneva and Bethesda, USA. He was appointed Professor of Dermatology and Venereology at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich in 1998. He served as associate editor of *J Invest Dermatol* 1997–2002 and is the principle author of numerous outstanding publications in leading immunological and dermatological journals. Professor Rees was appointed Grant Professor of Dermatology at

Edinburgh University in 1999. Before that he was Professor of Dermatology in Newcastle upon Tyne, where he was also trained. Professor Rees has an impressive scientific career with many important publications in several fields of dermatologic research, viz., molecular genetics of the skin, skin cancer, pigmentation, and, more lately, clinical research focused on the treatment of psoriasis. He served as Section Editor of *J Invest Dermatol* between 1997–2002 and is on the Advisory Board of many journals. The new Section Editors will, I am sure, contribute significantly not only to a high scientific standard of the review procedure, but also to a broadening of the geographic representation of the Board. The latter is appropriate in light of the increasing number of submissions from all around the world (Europe 73%, Asia 18.5%, America 7%, Middle East 1% and Australia 0.5%). Fig. 1 shows the number of published papers from various countries and regions of the world over the last three years.

At the same time as I have the privilege of welcoming two new editors, I would also like to thank one of the former editors who, for personal reasons, now leaves the Board. Professor Ove Bäck has served as Section Editor since 1999 and has very importantly contributed to the high scientific standard of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* especially in the field of atopic eczema, skin immunology and cytokines. Professor Röcken will take over this responsibility together with Professor Kristian Thestrup-Pedersen. Professor Bäck will,

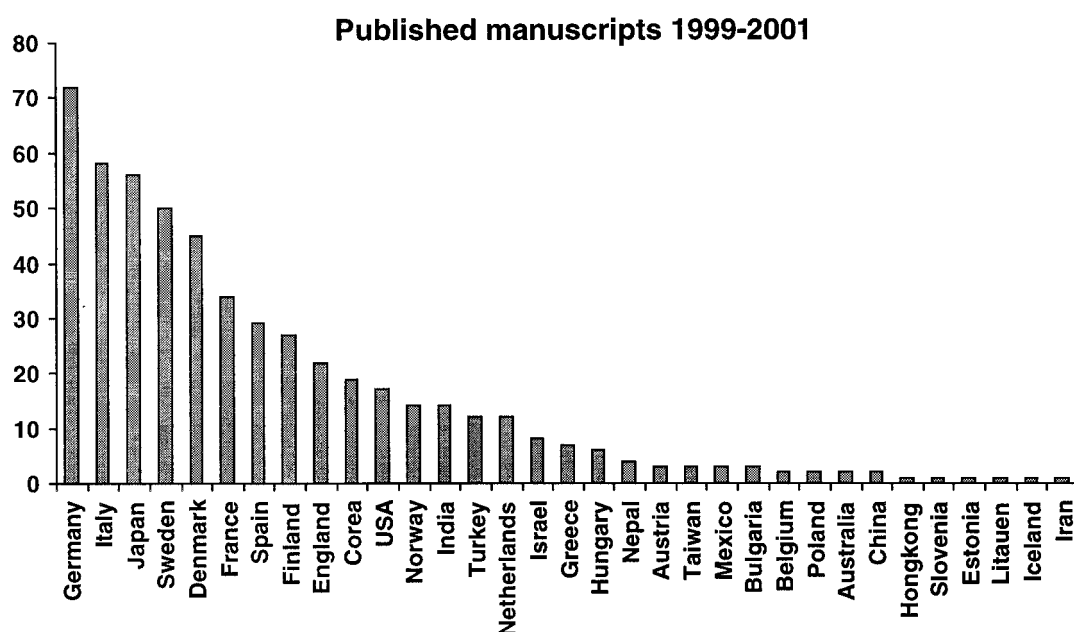


Fig 1. Published manuscripts in *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* during the years 1999–2001

however, remain chairman of the Society for publishing *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* and thus contribute to the development of the journal.

With the help of these and all the other highly qualified people on the Board – and not least our excellent Editorial Manager, Ms Agneta Andersson – we will continue to work hard to make *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* an indispensable source of information for our readers. This can, however, not be done without the valuable work by the reviewers, who critically review the papers and give constructive suggestions. The reviewers are recruited from all over the world, and we regularly use two reviewers for each paper. We try to encourage them to complete their review within two weeks and the time between submission and first reply to the authors is generally five to eight weeks. The time from acceptance to publication is usually two to four months, which is comparatively short. Since we receive far more manuscripts than we can publish the rejection rate in 2001 was approx. 55%.

An important policy matter for scientific journals is the openness of the discussion and the clarification of sponsorship, authorship and accountability, especially when publishing reports from clinical trials involving pharmaceutical companies. As Editor I fully agree with the joint international declaration recently published in

many general medical journals (1). Acknowledgement of any conflict of interest or sponsoring of the study by profit-making companies should be made clear in all papers submitted to *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*. In this context it should also be stressed that *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* only publishes original reports from interesting, controlled double-blind clinical trial as full papers. Pilot studies and open clinical trials may appear as Letters to the Editor if they contain information of great interest and have been approved by an university-affiliated ethics committee.

By continuously improving all aspects of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* it is our hope that the journal will continue to attract new readers and contributors around the world so that the impact factor may increase even further (for 2000 it was 1.549). Today, *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* no doubt ranks as one of the leading dermato-venereological journals in Europe.

REFERENCE

1. Davidoff F, De Angelis CD, Drazen JM, Hoey J, Hojgaard L, Horton R, *et al.* Sponsorship, authorship, and accountability. *N Engl J Med* 2001; 345: 825–827.

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