

EDITORIAL

Reflections after the first year on our own

One year ago I announced that we would end our collaboration with a commercial publisher as of January 2006 and start to publish *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* by ourselves. The non-profit organization who owns the journal, The Society for Publication of Acta Dermato-Venereologica, had several reasons for making this decision: first, our prognostic calculations showed that the journal's economic situation would improve by such a change; second, we wanted the journal to move more quickly towards open access and to ascertain that all steps in the publication process adhered to a non-profit ideology.

Have all these goals been fulfilled? Yes, the economy has changed from deficits over the last 5 years to a small surplus for 2006. Thanks to a generous grant from the Welander-Finsen Foundation covering some of the accumulated deficits we are now in a healthy (non profit!) situation. Meanwhile open access after 1 year has been instituted for all papers with a possibility for immediate open access for selected papers (reviews, high impact papers, etc.). This is a first step towards total open access; however before this is fully executed we must know better how to balance the expected fall in subscription income against the need for additional page charges. So far the shift of the *Acta Dermato-Venereologica's* policy from a commercial publisher to publication in its own right has been surprisingly smooth and successful, which is most certainly due to our extremely competent and efficient editorial manager, Mrs Agneta Andersson, and her team of co-workers at the editorial office.

By all these changes we are convinced that *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* will continue to receive numerous high-quality submissions from investigators around the world and to attract the interest of plenty readers,

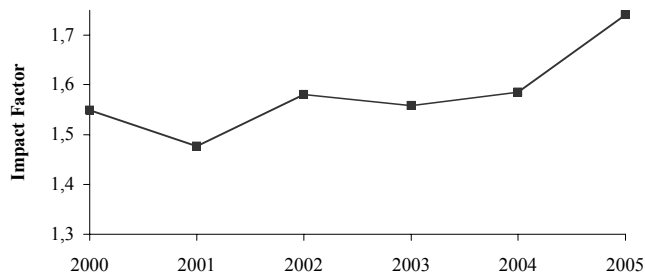


Fig. 1. Impact Factor for Acta Dermato-Venereologica 2000-2005

hopefully resulting in a further increase of the impact factor, presently being 1.741 (Fig. 1).

New section editors and new approaches

I am happy to welcome 3 new Section Editors who are working for our journal since the fall of 2006: Dr Elke Weisshaar, Associate Professor Håkan Mobacken and Professor Earl Carstens.

Håkan Mobacken, Gothenburg University, will take over the clinical case reports from Dr Flemming Brandrup, Odense, who will leave the Board in 2007 due to other commitments after having done 3 years of fantastic work as Section Editor. We are very grateful for all his efforts during this time. Dr Mobacken is a leading Clinical Dermatologist in Sweden; his experience and working capacity indeed bring new competence to our journal.

Elke Weisshaar, Heidelberg, and *Earl Carstens*, San Francisco, will share the responsibility for all submitted papers related to itch, which no doubt is one of the most problematic symptoms in Dermatology. Professor Carstens is a leading expert in the neurophysiology of itch, and Dr Weisshaar is a Clinical Dermatologist who has long-standing experience in the research on itch and its therapy. Their joining the Editorial Board not only brings new, outstanding expertise in the field of itch, but also represents a milestone in raising the scientific status of itch and neurodermatology in the dermatologic literature.

The increased emphasis on itch and neurodermatology is also reflected in the structured content list that was introduced in issue 4 of the present volume where all papers are organized and grouped after topics (see p. 481 for the list of this issue's content). We hope the readers appreciate this new approach. At the end of this issue you will find a structured content list of all titles published during 2006, which thus replaces the former "subject index".

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the Section Editors, the peer reviewers (see list at the end of this issue), and the Editorial Office for their invaluable help in processing the nearly 400 papers submitted to *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* during 2006.

Uppsala in November 2006
Anders Vahlquist
Editor-in-Chief