

## EDITORIAL

The first issue of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* appeared in January 1920. The 75th anniversary of the journal will be celebrated by publishing a subject and an author index of all the articles that have appeared over the years in this journal. These indexes will be distributed in 1996. The Subject Index also contains a historical review by our honorary editor Professor Nils Thyresson.

The articles in *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* come from all over the world. The distribution of the contributors during the last year is shown in Fig. 1. As a rule all articles are sent out to at least two reviewers before a decision is made. In the last years the number of articles received have increased successively from 230 in 1992 to 360 in 1995. The rejection rate is 50%.

The impact factor created by the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia is now published each year in the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR®)*. For 1994 it will be calculated for each scientific journal by dividing the number of citations published in 1992–1993 divided by the number of articles published during the same period. Journals with good review articles with many references will achieve a high impact factor and many short reports are likely to decrease the citation index. Journals of subspecialties such as dermatological journals have difficulties in obtaining a high impact factor when the index, as at present, is calculated over a short time. The impact factors have also been published in *Archives of Dermatology* in 1992 and 1994. *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* had a decrease in impact factor from 1.0 in 1991 to 0.69 in 1993 which is the last available figure, based on articles published 1991–1992.\* The number of articles received have since then increased. By introducing a larger format of *Acta*

\* Added in proof: The impact factor for 1994 is 0.86.

*Dermato-Venereologica* in 1992, we have also been able to publish more articles. The decrease of the impact factor since 1991 seems to be due to an increased number of short reports published between 1990 and 1992, which was done to publish as many interesting papers as possible; hoping to satisfy our readers with a diversity of articles we limited the length of the articles. Such a policy will decrease the citation index. Supplements with many very short reports on, for example, a specific drug will also decrease the index.

From 1992 we have therefore started to publish review articles and also stopped limiting the length of articles containing much important information and which are candidates for being frequently cited. The short reports which are valuable to the readers in both research and especially in clinical practice are now classified as Letters to the Editor, which are not included in the citation index calculation.

With this change in policy and with the high-quality articles we keep receiving we hope in a few years to increase our impact factor. Dermatological journals with clinical articles are often cited a fairly long time after publication. In the citation index calculated on a 10-year citation, *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* was ranked number 2 of the dermatological journals, which is encouraging.

With this information I want to wish all our readers and contributors a Happy New Year and all the best for the future. We look forward to receiving your articles and will try to publish them as fast as possible.

Uppsala, December 1995

Lennart Juhlin  
Editor

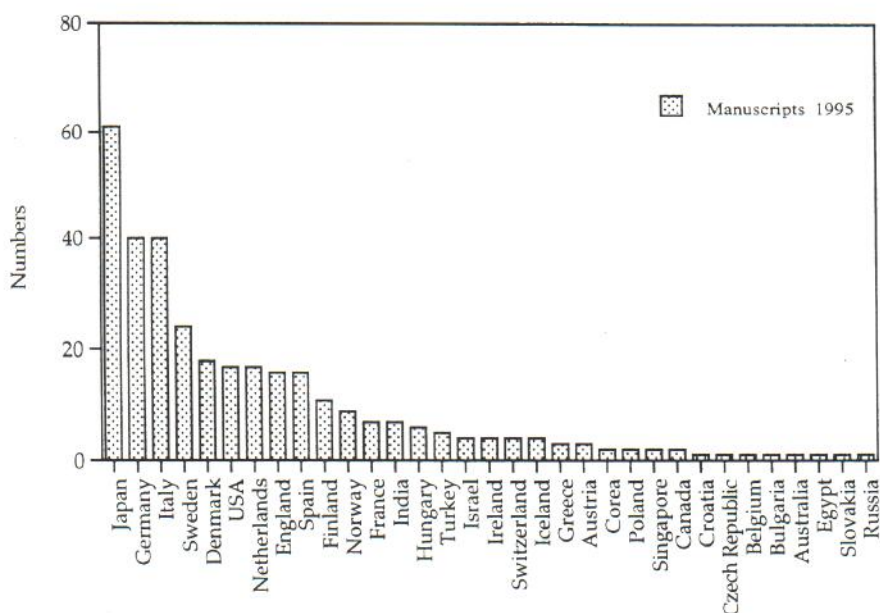


Fig. 1. Distribution of contributors of manuscripts submitted to *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* during 1995.