

EDITORIAL

JOURNAL OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE BECOMES ITS OWN PUBLISHER: ASPECTS OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

New avenues of publication

The not-for-profit Swedish Foundation of Rehabilitation Information, which is the owner of the *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*, has decided to end its collaboration with the Taylor & Francis Publishing Group from 2007. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Scandinavian branch of Taylor & Francis for several years of fruitful collaboration in producing our journal.

From January 2007 the *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine* will be published directly by the Foundation. We envisage several advantages in this: the publishing policy and processes will be directly connected to the Board of the Foundation and to the Editor and the Editorial office; there will be reduced publication costs, which ultimately will be of benefit to subscribers as the whole process will adhere to not-for-profit rules; and the possibility of moving towards open access will be in the hands of the journal.

For the time being we depend on continued interest from our institutional and individual subscribers, although at a later stage we are likely increasingly to finance the journal through page charges and, it is hoped, advertising revenue. Our intention is to move successively towards an open access electronic publication as an alternative to traditional subscriptions to the printed journal. As a first step we will work to stimulate interest in electronic subscriptions and allow free access to published papers according to the rules of the National Institute of Health (NIH) and Wellcome Trust not later than 6 months after publication, by allowing authors to place their articles on their own websites or in the repository of the relevant institution or university. Already from submission a “preprint” (i.e. a version of the article prior to peer review) can be made available as above, marked with an acknowledgement that it is a preprint of an article submitted for consideration in the *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*. We will also maintain the current possibility for authors to retain copyright of their work by signing a *Licence to publish*, rather than transferring copyright to the journal. The present system, of making the full text of the final, but not yet printed, version available online via the publisher’s preview service will continue and will enhance the availability of research findings as soon as the papers are uploaded to the internet. At present, however, this is valid only for readers working at an institution (e.g. a university), where there is a subscription to the journal, and for those with a personal subscription. It is hoped that this system will increase the opportunities for other researchers to obtain rapid access to new results and to cite them. By arranging for special

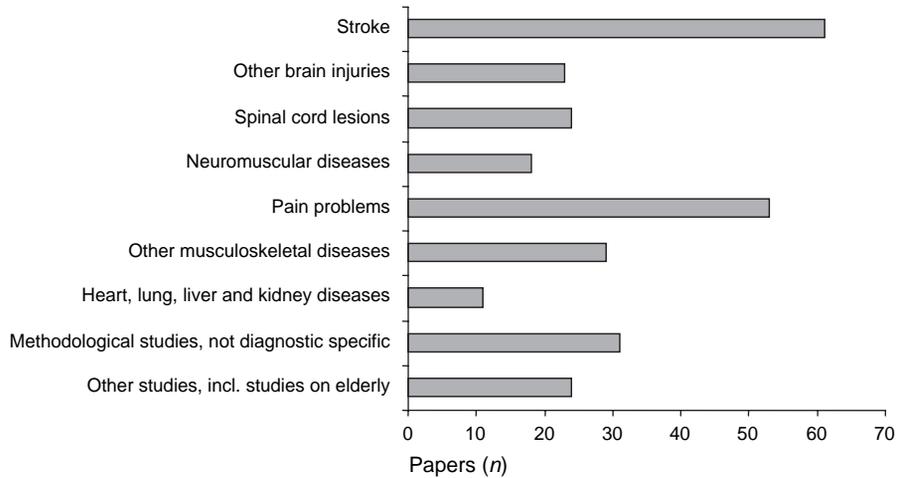
notification services this will further improve early access to the content of the journal.

This is a challenging time for the journal. The competence and experience needed to publish the *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine* independently from a commercial publisher is already in place at the Editorial office, which also handles *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*, which has been published in this way since 2006. It will be necessary for us to maintain the subscription fees for the printed version of the journal, but we will be able to offer markedly reduced individual subscriptions to persons connected with organizations for which we are the official journal. We are also grateful for the collaboration of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) European Board of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine and the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine. *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine* will now also be the official Journal of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM).

Manuscripts and supplements

Over the last few years the number of manuscripts submitted has increased markedly, from 155 in 2003 to 213 in 2005 and is expected to have risen even further by the end of 2006. This results in a rather high rate of rejection (around 75%), but also means that manuscripts of potential interest to our readers may have to be rejected in order to keep the publication time down. The increasing number of manuscripts submitted has led to the decision to enlarge the journal by 16 pages per issue for next year, but with no increase in the individual subscription fee. In addition, there will be extra pages in the first three issues of 2007 for reviews from the International Symposium “Evidence for Stroke Rehabilitation – Bridging Into the Future” arranged by the journal and held in Göteborg, Sweden in April 2006, with around 430 participants from a total of 38 countries. We also plan to publish a supplement at the beginning of 2007, with Gunnar Grimby, John Melvin and Gerold Stucki as editors dealing with conceptual and organizational aspects of clinical rehabilitation and rehabilitation research, based on the structure of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

The different areas of content in the journal during 2001–05 are shown below, with a good spread of subject matter within the main field of the clinical responsibility of rehabilitation medicine. The main subject areas were various neurological disorders, pain and musculoskeletal disorders. The total number of papers within each area is shown in the figure, and each paper is referred to in only one subject area, even if it has relevance to more than one area.



In this issue we have introduced a list of articles published during 2006 arranged in their main subject areas instead of listing the articles in the different issues. It should be noted that in this list some papers may be relevant to more than one area.

Impact factor

The impact factor of our journal has increased further in 2005. It is top of the list compared with other international journals within rehabilitation medicine:

Journal	Impact factor
Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine	1.799
Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	1.734
Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair	1.558
Clinical Rehabilitation	1.447
American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	1.142
Disability and Rehabilitation	0.988

We are well aware that the measurement of impact factor has several limitations, especially for small journals, and may vary from year to year. However, the trend for the *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine* has continued upwards. We also note that the articles are cited for a long time.

We believe that some of the themes published in recent years, as papers connected to ICF and to outcome measures, papers on traumatic brain injury and stroke, and controlled studies on

the management of patients with pain problems, may have been of special interest as well as the review papers.

Editorial aspects of the past and the future

We will continue to publish Review papers or Special Reports of general interest in most issues, and also hope to receive more Letters to the Editor; in particular we invite comments to the articles in the above-mentioned supplement based on ICF concepts to be published at the beginning of 2007.

The workload in the Editorial office has increased and we now have, besides the Editor-in-Chief, 3 Associate Editors: Jörgen Borg and Björn Gerdle and, most recently appointed, Franco Franchignoni from Italy, whom we welcome. The Editorial Board comprises 36 persons from 19 countries, demonstrating our international profile, with all continents except Africa represented. We are grateful to the members of the Editorial Board and to all other voluntary reviewers who give their valuable time to participate in the peer review process. Without them the high quality of the journal could not be maintained, not least through their comments supporting the authors in improving their manuscripts. The names of the reviewers for the present year are listed at the end of this issue.

Gunnar Grimby
Editor-in-Chief
Göteborg and Uppsala, October 2006