

EDITORIAL

JRM Goes Immediate Open Access!

As we announced recently, *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine* (JRM) is going through a modernization process, with new approaches, routines and design. We believe that this is of utmost importance in order to keep up to date with the rapid development of scientific journals.

With this in mind, from 1 January 2017, JRM will be published with immediate and total open access. The printed version will continue for a transition period. There are several arguments for open access. Many journals in various fields of medical research are already open access, or will be in the near future. Immediate open access will shorten the publication time and increase the download and citation of articles. Open access will also make the publication process more dynamic, with the opportunity for rapid comments and discussions. All articles will include a Lay Summary and a Clinical Message, aimed at increasing interest in JRM and the field of PRM among consumers and the media. All articles will be followed by a discussion and a debate section. Open access will make it easier for researchers to find data, which is essential for young scientists and those from universities with low budgets for subscription. Furthermore, some sponsors have open access as a condition for grants.

We believe that open access will increase the impact factor of JRM. Higher impact factors for all journals within the field of PRM are essential for the future development of research in the area of rehabilitation and for attracting research funding.

Financing of publication will be shifted from subscription via libraries and universities to the authors. Thus, the page charge will be changed to a publication fee. JRM is a non-profit journal and is owned by a non-profit foundation, and the intention is to keep the publication fee as low as possible. The rate for all case reports as well as articles from low-income countries will be reduced.

We would like to reduce further the handling time of submissions. Editors-in-chief, associate editors and reviewers are all involved in the submission, review, acceptance/rejection process. JRM is looking for ways to reduce this handling time and is considering financial compensation for reviewers.

From 1 January 2017 readers will be able to sign up for a free account, in order to access “added value”, including e-mail alerts with updated information and lists of publications made the last month. These persons will also be sent monthly invitations to discuss papers online and will be offered a reduction in the publication fee.

Last, but not least, JRM will be given a new layout and cover design. More colours will be used in the electronic version and lengthy tables will, where possible, be changed to figures and photographs.

Bob Dylan sang in 1964 “The Times They are a-Changin’ “. JRM is now almost 50 years old. When times change, journals change; 2017 will be a year of changes, improvements and challenges. We are convinced that both our authors and our readers will benefit from the “new JRM”.

Stockholm and Rotterdam, September 2016

*Professor Kristian Borg
Editor-in-Chief of JRM*

*Professor Henk Stam
Editor-in-Chief of JRM*