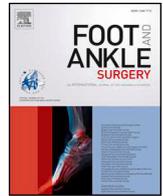


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Foot and Ankle Surgery

journal homepage: www.journals.elsevier.com/foot-and-ankle-surgery

Publishing backlog of accepted articles in paper print



Foot and Ankle Surgery has increased its paper print volume over the years. The paper print journal started with three issues with 91 pages in total in 1994. From 1996 until 2017, four issues were yearly published with 276 to 326 pages in total. Six issues were published in 2017 and 2018 with 556 respectively 858 pages. From 2019, eight issues have been published with 948 in 2019 and 952 pages in 2020. The increasing number of issues and especially paper print pages reflects the increasing number of accepted articles based on the increasing number of submissions. Despite the increasing number of published articles, the Impact Factor (IF) continuously increased to 2,840 for 2021. The increased IF again led to increasing number of submissions. The amount of paper print pages has been further adapted. Still, the journal has built up a backlog of accepted articles that are not published in paper print yet. This does not mean at all that these accepted articles have not been published. They have been published (so-called) online, i.e. the articles are available for download on the journal's website, and of course the articles are listed in all relevant scientific database, above all Pubmed. We (editors and publisher) are very proud that we have decreased the time from acceptance to online publication on the journal's website and to listing in Pubmed with articles fully available and citable shortly after acceptance. However, the publication is only complete

with the paper printed article appearing in a print issue. There are different options to handle this. One option would be to argue that the online publication and penetration to Pubmed is the main goal and the delayed paper print publication does not matter. One could also argue that all accepted articles should be published in the next paper print issue. With this option, there is a risk that upcoming issues could not be filled when not enough new articles are accepted. We are actually facing not only one crisis, and the rejection rate currently is around 70% which might decrease the number of available accepted articles for the upcoming issue. We (editor and publisher) discussed the different options and found a good compromise to publish an extra 30 articles in this and the next issue. We cannot foresee the further development but might again publish more articles than planned in some upcoming issues or ultimately increase the number of annual issues. EFAS, editors and publisher will keep this in mind. And now, I hope you enjoy this first "super" issue.

Editor-in-chief

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