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## Foot and Ankle Surgery

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### Editorial

## How to win the “Best Paper Award”

Foot and Ankle Surgery awards annually one published paper with the "Best Paper Award". One might wonder which criteria are used, who makes the decision and how could you improve your chances of winning this coveted award. The background of the award goes back to the founding of the journal, with the best paper being given the opportunity to stand out. In principle, all the paper types (original article, review, case report, technical tip) are eligible for the award. However, only original and review articles have won the award so far. The paper needs to be published in print version in the year of the award. The paper is selected by the editors (Editor-in-chief and Associate Editors). Typically, the Editor-in-chief chooses 4–5 out of the accepted papers for further evaluation by the editors and each editor creates a ranking. Then, the best paper is chosen by collating those individual rankings. What makes for a high ranking? The main focus is on the scientific value. Experimental studies with a unique and new study design and high clinical relevance have such a high scientific value. Clinical studies with adequate case numbers and follow-up (minimum 2 years) including a control group and possible randomization would also be of high scientific value. A review article has gained the award in the past depending on the methodology and breadth of analyzed publications. Then, the topic is also of relevance. Topics with high relevance for the daily work of foot and ankle surgeons will be ranked higher than papers dealing with rare conditions. Actuality is of less importance because the ranking is made after the entire

year, and the time from completion of the study and submission is typically another year, summing up to 2 years or more between completing the manuscript and the ranking for the award. You have to be patient, but the best chance for receiving the Best Paper Award depends more on the quality of the research than on the type of research or the topic of the paper.

Martinus Richter<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

Jesus Vila y Rico<sup>3</sup>

Kris Buedts<sup>3</sup>

Ian Winson<sup>3</sup>

Daniele Marcolli<sup>3</sup>

Department for Foot and Ankle Surgery Nuremberg and Rummelsberg, Location Hospital Rummelsberg, Rummelsberg 71, 90592 Schwarzenbruck, Germany

<sup>1</sup>Homepage: [www.krankenhaus-rummelsberg.de](http://www.krankenhaus-rummelsberg.de) (Quick access department: [www.foot-surgery.eu](http://www.foot-surgery.eu)).

<sup>2</sup>Editor-in-Chief.

<sup>3</sup>Associate Editor.

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [martinus.richter@sana.de](mailto:martinus.richter@sana.de) (M. Richter).

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