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Editorial

Current status of the journal and developments for the future

Over the last two decades our journal has developed extremely well. Michael Stephens who is one of the founding editors described this impressive history in his last editorial as Editor-in-chief [1]. From today's point of view, all previous editors (M. Stephens, L. Klenermann, N. Wuelker, S. Giannini, T. Smith, N. Maffulli) have to be acknowledged for their extensive efforts in driving our journal forward. Michael Stephens who was editor the entire past (1996–2018) has significantly contributed to this success. Under these leaders especially the content the journal and its impact in the scientific environment has improved more and more. As a logical consequence the journal is listed in all relevant databases including Pubmed. It has received a high impact factor (currently 1.348) which is the second highest in the field of foot and ankle surgery. The number of submissions massively increased in relation to the impact factor. The volume increased and also the numbers of issue up to 6 per year from 2018. Two decades are a long time in the age of electronic information and communication, and some of the journals functions could not keep step with the scientific content. For example the time between online publication and appearance in Pubmed took up to 2 years. Updates of editorial board members or EFAS representatives in paper print journal and on journals websites took up to 3 years.

The times of the review process are longer than for other journals whereas time from acceptance to online publication is very quick. Besides these organizational and technical issues, the situation of advertisement in the journal has never become acceptable. It has much less numbers of advertisement than all other foot and ankle journals including national journals. Some issues have been solved as for example the delay between online publication and appearance in Pubmed. On February 7, 2018 148 online published articles migrated in one single step into Pubmed, and further on continuously without further delays. The editorial system changed from EES to EVISE. More active reviewers moved up to the formal editorial board listed in the journal, whereas inactive reviewers stepped down from the list. Ian Winson was

reactivated as Review Editor and a completed Editor's team was introduced [1]. With this team we are looking into the future and there are substantial visions for the near and distant future:

- decreasing times for the review process
- increasing impact factor and reaching out for highest impact factor in foot and ankle surgery
- increasing volume
- increasing number of advertisements

Most of these goals are based on increased workload especially for the editorial board. We do have very good reviewers and we are continuously looking for more good reviewers. When you have a certain level of scientific experience, you are encouraged to join the editorial team, and to be part of our success. Send your application including CV and personal publication list to the editorial office. The first step is always the most important to reach out for our goal.

Regarding this special issue, I want to direct your attention to the article "EFAS Score - Development and Validation by the Score Committee of the European Foot and Ankle Society (EFAS)". The EFAS Score Committee started 2013 with this task and the EFAS Score could be validated in seven European languages so far [2].

Reference

- [1] Stephens M.. The history and development of the journal from the view of a founding editor. *Foot Ankle Surg* 2018;24(2):79.
- [2] Richter M, Agren P-H, Besse J-L, Coester M, Kofoed H, Maffulli N, Rosenbaum D, Steultjens M, Alvarez F, Boszczyk A, Buedts K, Guelfi M, Liszka H, Louwerens J-W, Repo JP, Samaila E, Stephens M, Witteveen AGH. EFAS Score - Development and Validation by the Score Committee of the European Foot and Ankle Society (EFAS). *Foot Ankle Surg* 2018;24(3).

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