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"Letter to the editor" option cancelled in Foot and Ankle Surgery[☆]

2025, the editors decided to cancel the "Case report" and "Technical tip" publication options, and to maintain the "Letter to the editor" and "Response to the letter to the editor" options [1]. The reason was to allow for post publication review, comments and discussion of published articles [1]. Only letters commenting on articles previously published in Foot and Ankle Surgery had been considered [1]. Statements in the letters had to be justified by references [1]. The letters were forwarded to the authors of the article who were encouraged to respond to the letters [1]. Letters and responses were planned to be published together in one issue [1]. The editors felt that these letters and responses would emphasize the scientific focus of the journal and maintains the possibility to discuss articles with the authors [1]. However, the real situation did not meet the expectations. Firstly, we observed a massively increased number of submitted letters especially from Asia. In our interpretation, the aim of these letters was not predominantly scientific discussion but to collect "cheap", or better effortless Pubmed-listed publications. We discussed to limit the submission of letters to one

per year per author but then discarded this option. Secondly, 80% of the authors of the publication that was addressed with the letter did not respond to the letter. Consequently, the desired scientific discussion between the authors of the letter and the authors of the addressed publication did not take place. In conclusion, the editors decided to cancel the letter to the editor option.

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Reference

- [1] Richter M. "Case report" and "Technical tip" article types cancelled and "Letter to the editor" format maintained in foot and ankle surgery. *Foot Ankle Surg* 2025;31(5):377.

[☆] Homepage: www.krankenhaus-rummelsberg.de (Quick access department: www.foot-surgery.eu).

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