

Same procedure as last year, James ... same procedure as every year ...

Jon Karlsson¹ · Roland Becker² · Michael T. Hirschmann³ · Volker Musahl⁴

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Jon Karlsson



Roland Becker



Michael T. Hirschmann



Volker Musahl

✉ Jon Karlsson
jon.karlsson@telia.com

Roland Becker
roland.becker@kssta.org

Michael T. Hirschmann
Michael.Hirschmann@unibas.ch

Volker Musahl
musahlv@upmc.edu

¹ Department of Orthopaedics, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Mölndal, Sweden

² Department of Orthopaedic and Traumatology, City Hospital Brandenburg, Hochstrasse 29, 14770 Brandenburg/Havel, Germany

³ Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, Kantonsspital Baselland (Bruderholz, Liestal, Laufen), Bruderholz, Switzerland

⁴ Orthopaedic Surgery and Bioengineering, University of Pittsburgh, UPMC Center for Sports Medicine, 3200 South Water Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203, USA

Another year has come to an end, it's strange how time flies. And, it is time for the same procedure as last year, i.e. the journal has grown, submissions have increased, the Impact Factor has increased. We are happy and proud to be the journal's leadership.

Again, we would like to start by thanking all the reviewers listed below. You are extremely valuable to us, and without you, the journal would not be the same. Most probably, there would be no journal at all. We are aware of the fact that reviewing a manuscript is time-consuming, sometimes boring and it is unpaid. A second problem is that many of you as good reviewers serve several journals. KSSTA is still an European journal, but as of today, we are more and more international. Therefore, we have increasingly tried to find new reviewers from outside Europe. We are aware that all too often the best reviewers are hit with review requests from several journals at the same time. We, therefore, try to limit the number of reviews assigned to the same reviewer as

much as possible; a maximum of six reviews per year is the goal. During 2015, we have cleaned the reviewer list and reduced the numbers by more than half; we currently have around 500 on our list. We strongly feel that this will lead to improvements, better and more timely reviews, as we have kept only the very best reviewers. Already, we feel that the review process has improved substantially during the year.

We will as in the previous years select the best reviewers of the year, and the award will be given during the ESSKA Congress in Barcelona in May 2016. We are currently in the middle of the selection process. Once more, thank you reviewers for all your great efforts during this year. Your work is invaluable, and without you, the journal would soon be out of business.

Our website is now well consolidated (www.kssta.org) and is well coordinated with the new ESSKA website (www.esska.org), and we now have more than 500 Facebook friends. We sincerely hope that all these activities are rewarding for the authors and the readers of the journal. We continuously update information on the website and Facebook. Thanks to Sebastian Kopf, our web-editor.

Last June, we were really happy to learn that KSSTA's Impact Factor for 2014 had climbed to 3.053. We now have reached the milestone of an Impact Factor of +3 for the first time. This places the journal in the top 10 position in both categories of Sports Medicine and Orthopaedics, where we climbed to the 7th place among more than 80 journals worldwide. As mentioned many times before, improvements are still possible and we need to improve the Impact Factor even further in the future. We are happy with improvements, but we will not rest. There are many other issues that we need to improve, like the turnaround time, i.e. the time between submission and decision and the time taken for the 2nd and 3rd reviews. And, we need to shorten the backlog; in this aspect, we have not succeeded so well. We probably need to increase the rejection rate in order to cope with the increasing number of submissions.

So, what are the facts? Is it the same procedure as last-year, the same procedure as every year? Yes, we might say so; more of the same, but a little bit better. The journal has in fact increased and improved in every aspect. We published almost 4000 pages this year (a record number) and will do so also in 2016 (including several upcoming

Themes Issues that we are currently working on), and the number of submissions has risen to almost 1,600 (also a record number). The constantly increased flow of papers is good, but as we have decided not to expand the journal more, this will lead to more papers being rejected; some are rejected already at the Editorial level, when we (the Editors) strongly feel that the manuscript does not fit well into the journal and/or the scientific news value is limited. However, we are very happy with the trend we have noted; i.e. many high-quality papers are being published in the journal today. We know that this will lead to greater readership and an improved impact factor.

We have made some major changes to the Editorial Team during 2015. Roland Becker is now Deputy Editor-in-Chief and the two new Assistant Editors-in-Chief are Michael Hirschmann and Volker Musahl. The new Assistant Editors-in-Chief have already made a huge impact and off-loaded the chief Editors in several ways, something that was much needed. We (Roland and Jon) would like to welcome Michael and Volker to the top table, and we look forward to long-term collaboration. We have also made some major changes to the Editorial Board, and we would like to welcome several new Editorial Board members. These persons have all done outstanding work as reviewers during the last years and will no doubt do so in the future too. We will continue to look for the best people for the Editorial Board. Finally, we have completely restructured the Editorial Office in Luxembourg with two new Editorial Assistants. We are very happy with their efficacy and their own ideas to bring the journal forward.

We would like to especially thank Runeeta Rai and Amanda Olsson, who run the Editorial Office, the ESSKA Board and the ESSKA Office in Luxembourg for good collaboration during the year. Thanks to Zhanna Kovalchuk, who runs the ESSKA Office. As always, our friends at Springer, especially Gabriele Schröder for outstanding work. The journal is produced in India, also an outstanding editorial team. Thanks to you all.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year in 2016. The journal will meet new challenges, but we feel that the Editorial team and the Editorial Office are strong and we are ready to face all the challenges ahead. We will certainly do our best. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the ESSKA Congress in Barcelona in May 2016. We will organize several interesting KSSTA activities there. Have fun!

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