Past, present and future

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We would like to start by thanking everyone who has been involved in the journal during the year, especially the reviewers who are listed here. Reviewing a manuscript is time-consuming and unpaid, and often reviewers are bombarded with requests to review simultaneously from several journals. We are very much aware of this, so we try and limit the number of reviews as much as possible. But we are also aware that we lean heavily on the same reviewers over and over again due to their excellence. In other words, ‘the only reward for doing good work is more work!...’ As Editors, we are constantly looking for new reviewers to reduce and redistribute the workload. In fact, we have been successful in this task, and currently, there are more than 500 active reviewers on our list. We try hard to use reviewers in a sensible manner, not to overload them and only give them papers that are closely related to their field of expertise. If we do not succeed all the time, it is not for want of trying. We should like to thank all the reviewers for their efforts during 2012. Your work is invaluable, and without you, the journal would simply not survive.

At the ESSKA congress in Geneva, we selected for the first time the ‘Outstanding reviewers of the year’. This is something that will be repeated. For the year 2011, Olaf Lorbach (Germany) and Stavros Ristanis (Greece) were

nominated. We are now able to announce the ‘Outstanding reviewers of 2012’—two young, bright people both originating from the Netherlands, but currently in United States. They are Carola van Eck (Pittsburg, PA) and Coen Wijdicks (Vail, CO). Not only are their reviews of rigorous scientific quality, but they deliver punctually—a dream for Editors. Congratulations to you both.

This year has been good for the journal in many ways. The Editorial Office is now very well established and has recently been strengthened with an additional part-time editorial secretary. The Editorial Office is now better co-ordinated with the ESSKA office in Luxembourg, under the leadership of Elodie Reyter, Editorial Co-ordinator. Our new website has been launched (www.kssta.org), and we now have several hundred friends on our Facebook page. We feel that all these activities are rewarding both for authors and for readers of the journal, and we will do our best to continue the momentum in this medium.

We are encouraged that KSSTA’s Impact Factor has now climbed beyond the ‘magic number’ of 2.0. The Impact Factor for 2011 was released in June and was 2.209. This places the journal in an enviably high position in the categories of both sports medicine and orthopaedics. However, further improvements are both mandatory and achievable, and we will all need to work hard to deliver this. We need your help with the best papers and the best reviews.

At the ESSKA meeting in Geneva, we celebrated the journal’s 20th anniversary during a well-attended ceremony. The best scientific papers of 2010–2011 were selected, with Pau Golanó (Spain) and co-workers as winners, Markus Waldén (Sweden) and co-workers as runners-up and Volker Musahl (USA) and co-workers and Guillaume Demey (France) and co-workers in joint third place. We will repeat this at the ESSKA meeting in Amsterdam with the best papers of 2012–2013.

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Now, what lies in future? Probably, the journal has more or less reached its maximum size with 2,600 pages this year and a planned 2,800 for 2013. Submissions have exceeded 1,000 for the first time, and whilst this is an interesting landmark, its significance can be debated. We prefer to receive fewer papers of higher quality. But what is most important is the trend that we have seen with a larger number of better papers and less poorer ones.

We plan some changes to the Editorial Board, there will be expansion, and the new additions will be introduced in the January 2013 issue. They include Michael Hantes,

Hélder Pereira, Oliver Kessler, Michael Bohnsack, Peter Balcerek, Kristian Samuelsson, Mustafa Karahan, Eduard Alentorn-Geli, Géza Pap, Martin Lind, Jens Agneskirschner, Eva Zeizig, Peter Angele, Kristín Briem and Christoph Becher. All have done outstanding work as reviewers during the last few years.

Finally, we would like to thank René Verdonk for his major contribution to the journal. René has now retired from his position as Editor-in-Chief, but will still assist on special projects, as Senior Editor. Thank you René for everything.

2012 reviewers

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