Thank you for 2016

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First of all, we would like to thank everyone involved in the journal for the tireless (and sometime unglamorous) work year by year, especially the loyal reviewers who provide scientifically top-class reviews and, therefore, help to keep KSSTA's overall standing as a strong journal of

high scientific quality. Our Impact Factor and ranking are improving year by year. The 2015 figures were encouraging and showed yet another improvement. The IF has again climbed, from 3.057 in 2014 to 3.097. We feel that we are now well established as a “3+ journal”. Also, the ranking in Orthopaedics has climbed from ninth to seventh, and in Sports Science we have climbed from tenth to ninth. In other words, we are now considered a “Top-10” journal, which is very good news indeed.

We have noted that citations of our recent articles have increased significantly over the past two years (by more than 100%), and this will affect our Impact Factor in the future. It is also worth noting that our “self-citation index” is at 20% or thereabouts.

We believe the best way to maintain and improve KSSTA's standing is by attracting the very best papers and guaranteeing their authors a fast and efficient processing, from submission through to final decision. This year we have been able to improve our handling of manuscripts, with

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an even more stringent review process and a faster turnaround time. And for this, we need to attract and retain the best reviewers, and again thank you to all of you reviewers.

We have “raised the bar” for acceptance. This means we are rejecting more manuscripts (a larger proportion of them) than ever. Just to give you an idea of the numbers, we are receiving well over 100 submissions a month (sometimes as many as 160), and we will end up with more than 1,600 this year, some 100 more than last year.

We are now using a Rapid Reject Process for those submissions which clearly have some fault, which is detectable during an initial reading. For such papers, we can decide within 7–10 days and inform their authors, using a short explanatory note. The commonest grounds for rejection are the following: limited cohorts; no sample size calculation; type II statistical errors; lack of IRB Approval; and limited clinical relevance. Such papers are seldom useful, and therefore, we must limit their publication. It is noteworthy that we have had very few complaints about this Rapid Reject Process.

We are required, therefore, to examine incoming manuscripts for adequate cohort size, sample size calculation (we need to avoid conclusions based on type II statistical error) and IRB Approvals. We also check methods integrity, and many Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses are currently being rejected for errors in their scientific method. There has anyway been a marked increase in Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses and, as of today, we are checking these manuscripts especially for sound methodology, before they are sent to reviewers.

We would like to inform that we recently had to retract two papers because they contained incorrect information. For this, we worked closely with the publisher (SpringerNature) and with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE; www.publicationethics.org). Such things take time and must be handled well. As a result, we now require a “Conflict of Interest” statement (this can be done on the Springer website) from all authors and for all submissions. This is new, but is already included in our revised “Instructions to Authors” on the website.

We have added two new Associate Editors during the year. We are pleased that Olufemi Ayeni from McMaster,

Canada, is now an Associate Editor, specifically for Hip Arthroscopy manuscripts, as well as Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses. In July, we also added one further Associate Editor; Ryosuke Kuroda from Kobe, Japan. Ryosuke will focus on knee papers, but at the same time be responsible for our increasing worldwide coverage, especially in the Asia Pacific. We are welcoming three good researchers/clinicians to the Editorial Board, Piero Volpi, Elmar Herbst and Christoph Kittl. The Reviewers of the year are Nobuo Adachi (Japan), Gunnar Knutsen (Norway) and Reha Tandogan (Turkey). Special thanks to you for the good work you have done through many years.

We have also started to return submissions already at the Editorial Office level. That is to say, manuscripts are examined for correct format (especially the Abstract and References) and correct English. If the manuscript is faulty, it is returned to authors before they enter the review process. Please note that about 40–60% of submissions suffer this fate and are returned to authors.

Please consider this that by publishing good papers—and only good papers—we shall attract papers of even better quality and, therefore, ensure an increase in our Impact Factor. This is a felicitous cycle. We have mentioned it before and shall do so again.

Concerning 2016, this year we have planned and published several theme issues. As for 2017, the planning has already begun. Theme issues dealing with “Hip Instability” and “Antero-lateral knee instability” are in the planning. And, we are working on consensus papers, like an ESSKA European consensus on “degenerative meniscus lesions” that will be published at the beginning of 2017.

Taking everything into consideration, the KSSTA journal is very healthy indeed. Its Impact Factor has improved year on year, submissions are plentiful (currently 10% above 2015), and the number of pages in each issue has increased. But we cannot stand still. We need to maintain the good work. We are solid in the Top-10 ranking, but why not aim higher, why not try for the Top-5?

KSSTA’s 25th Anniversary will be celebrated next year, and we have already started to prepare, for instance with a new Front Cover that will appear in January.

2016 reviewers

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