

Journal development and a thank you to reviewers

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Two years after our previous report [1], we would like to update our authors, reviewers and readership on the current development of the *Int J Legal Med*. Most importantly, the impact factor has remained nearly constant during the last 2 years (2011, 2012), staying above 2.5, even though the frequency of self-citations has decreased in the same period.

The editors and the members of the editorial office processed a total of 823 manuscripts which were submitted in 2011 and 2012. Due to the excellent work of nearly 260 reviewers working in all fields of legal medicine, a total of 1,671 reviews were carried out. The average time for the first review could be reduced to about 16 days. The average processing time per manuscript remained constant at 33 days.

The increased number of high-quality manuscripts submitted allowed us to increase the number of papers published per volume. Nevertheless, the acceptance rate is less than 30 %. In addition to the impact factor, the number of full text downloads represents an impressive marker of the reputation of the journal. In 2011, there were a total of 154,672 downloads. In 2012, scientists downloaded the full texts 278,430 times.

To improve the journal's transparency and to structure the different issues of each volume more consistently, we defined the main categories of topics (e.g. DNA research, toxicology, morphology, forensic imaging). Moreover, we introduced a new category of manuscript (population genetic data) and laid out guidelines for preparing such manuscripts [2].

New members of the Editorial and Advisory Boards as well as new reviewers—all of them extraordinary scientists with special knowledge in various fields of legal medicine—will guarantee successful development in the future.

In the name of the publishers and the editors, we would like to thank the reviewers for their outstanding work (Table 1) and the authors for the high quality of their submissions. Without the time consuming work of both groups of scientists, such an impressive development would not have been possible. The members of the editorial and advisory boards, the staff of the editorial office as well as the broad readership of the *International Journal of Legal Medicine* express their sincere gratitude to you. We greatly welcome your continued support of the journal.

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Table 1 Names of reviewers in order of number of reviews completed

Micaela Poetsch
 Gisela Skopp
 Burkhard Rolf
 Stephan Köhnemann
 Tony Fracasso
 Klaus Püschel
 Rüdiger Lessig
 Peter Wiegand
 Jianye Ge
 Jeanett Edelmann
 Burkhard Madea
 Andreas Schmeling
 Marielle Vennemann
 A. Busutil
 Bruce Budowle
 Andreas Olze
 Manfred Kayser
 Hiromasa Inoue
 Sven Schmidt
 Frank Musshoff
 Vittorio Fineschi
 Toshikazu Kondo
 Sue Black
 Douglas H. Ubelaker
 Peter Forster
 Frank Peters
 Walther Parson
 Jens Amendt
 Marcel A. Verhoff
 Hitoshi Maeda
 Reinhard Dettmeyer
 Bertrand Ludes
 Katsuji Nishi
 Bernd Karger
 Takaki Ishikawa
 Stefan Pollak
 Sabine Lutz-Bonengel
 Lutz Roewer
 Jennifer Schürenkamp
 Patrick Thevissen
 Michael Klintschar
 Peter Gill
 Per Holck
 Christian Schyma
 Mechthild Prinz
 Gita Mall
 Thomas Daldrup
 Helen Liversidge
 Matthias Graw
 Richard Zehner
 Eva Scheurer

Table 1 (continued)

Fabrice Dedouit
 Markus Große Perdekamp
 Ronald Schulz
 Christoph Meißner
 Fritz Pragst
 Justus Beike
 Hugo Cardoso
 Jan Drefßler
 Friedrich Rösing
 Jan Peter Spermhake
 Gerhard Kernbach-Wighton
 Cristina Cattaneo
 Santo Davide Ferrara
 Michael Bohnert
 Rolf Fimmers
 Mike Coble
 Roland Hausmann
 Markus A. Rothschild
 Helga Köhler
 Thomas Bajanowski
 Andreas Büttner
 Rossana Cecchi
 Carlo Pietro Campobasso
 Stefanie Ritz-Timme
 Beat Kneubuehl
 John Mark Midgley
 Patrice Mangin
 Sibylle Banaschak
 Kathy Keyvani
 Tore T Solheim
 Elisabeth Mützel
 Christian Jackowski
 Uta Kuepper
 Eugenia Cunha
 Jeffrey D. Wells
 Guy Ruttly
 Daniel Franklin
 Antti Sajantila
 Hermann Vogel
 Stephan Bolliger
 Guido Viel
 Werner Paulus
 Marc Schlamann, M.D.
 Wolfgang Weinmann
 Stephan Waldmüller
 Caroline Wilkinson
 Sascha Willuweit
 Daniel Wittschieber
 Silke Grabherr
 Kathrin Yen
 Peter M. Schneider

Table 1 (continued)

Charles H Brenner, PhD
 J. Matschke
 Stefanie Iwersen-Bergmann
 Leonor Gusmao
 Lucina Hackman
 Lynn R. LaMotte
 Peter Betz
 Christoph Gerhard Birngruber
 Mechtild M. T. Vennemann
 Peter Fritz Schmidt
 Angel Carracedo
 Joseph Donfack
 Hansjürgen Bratzke
 Frank Ramsthaler
 Christine Picard
 Holger Muggenthaler
 Jane Taylor
 Marian M. de Pancorbo
 Monika Lindemann
 Steffen Heide
 Pedro Manuel Garamendi
 Volker Auwärter
 Michael Tsokos
 Derrick Pounder
 Hideo Baba
 Gail Anderson
 Anette Solveig Debertin
 Rui Pereira
 Markus A. Parzeller
 Robert Paine
 Martin Villet
 Francesco De Stefano
 Claus Grundmann
 Richard Guest
 Maciej Henneberg
 Kelly A. Meiklejohn
 Geoffroy Lorin
 Sigrid Ingeborg Kvaal
 Michael Krawczak
 Iva Gomes
 Jan Buer
 Anja Bräutigam
 David Brody
 Herman Bernitz
 H. Andresen
 Y. Suzuki
 Stefano Vanin
 Chris O'Donnell
 Lars Oesterhelweg
 Siri Opdal
 S. D. J. Pena

Table 1 (continued)

O. Peschel
 Iain Pretty
 Saskia Reibe
 Natalie R. Shirley
 John Butler
 Jefferey K. Tomberlin
 Pascal Kintz
 Cordula Haas
 Roger Byard
 Frank Sporkert
 Susan Gurney
 Christian Hall
 Martin Hall
 Katja Bender
 Sven Benthaus
 Arne Stray-Pedersen
 Michael Thali
 Bruno Morgan
 Thomas Parsons
 José Luis Prieto
 Walter Popp
 Peter-Michael Rath
 Maria Antonia Roberts
 Peter Harald Schmidt
 Stephan Seidl
 Christopher Semsarian
 Barbara Schneider
 Torleiv Ole Rognum
 Herbert Renz
 Steffen Ross
 Frank Prieels
 Vilma Pinchi
 Cristian Palmiere
 Michael Strickland
 Kirsty L. Spalding
 Norbert Telmon
 Kurt Trübner
 Annette Thierauf
 Tim James Upton Thompson
 Stefan Toennes
 John Simon Buckleton
 Ines Morais Caldas
 Falko Drijfhout
 Seenaa Fazel
 Florian Grabellus
 Volker Dittmann
 Denis A. Cusack
 Chris Lawrence
 Götz Lehnerdt
 Bernhard Knell
 P. J. T. Knudsen

Table 1 (continued)

Philippe Lunetta
 Wolfgang Mayr
 Fraser McDonald
 Rainer Mattem
 Ana Hernandez Redondo
 Elke Hillewig
 Rimantas Jankauskas
 Eilin Jopp
 Gerhard Jorch
 Michal Kaliszan
 Matthias Kettner
 Els De Letter
 Jack Ballantyne
 N. Ikeda
 Hans H. Maurer
 Paul Fornes
 A. Fieguth
 Rolf Beutel
 Shera Van Laerhoven
 Jean-Louis Senon
 Devinder Singh
 Coby Schal
 Claude Roux
 Frank Rühli
 David A. Russell
 Chris Rynn
 Christopher Rynn
 Ralf J. Radlanski
 Jason Payne-James
 Eva Neuen-Jacob
 Chris Tyler-Smith
 P. A. Underhill

Table 1 (continued)

James Wallman
 Wolfgang Sperl
 Ursula Wittwer-Backofen
 Krzysztof Woźniak
 Max Baur
 Karsten Becker
 Hugh Berryman
 Kurt W. Alt
 Sonja Boy
 JoAnn Buscaglia
 Stanislav Gorb
 Ricardo Dinis
 Romina Carabott
 Willy Lambert
 Neil Langlois
 Chris Lennard
 John Komlos
 Niels Lynnerup
 Wolfgang Keil
 Axel Heinemann
 Willams Guy
 Martin Grassberger

References

1. Bajanowski T, Pfeiffer H (2011) Journal performance report. *Int J Legal Med* 125:323–325
2. Poetsch M, Bajanowski T, Pfeiffer H (2012) The publication of population genetic data in the *International Journal of Legal Medicine: guidelines*. *Int J Legal Med* 126:489–490