Farewell

Bernd Kirchhof

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After many years of editorship for *Graefes Archives* it is now time to pass this privilege to new hands. I am grateful to Professor Günter Krieglstein, my predecessor and to Diana Epstein (journal managing editor), who greatly supported me. I am also deeply indebted to Springer Publisher. I am confident that the journal will continue and improve as a platform for researchers worldwide, providing short publication times, review and publishing support.

In today's age, publishing is becoming more and more digital. The core services of a scientific journal are and will be review and ranking. The reviewers, our colleagues, sometimes competitors, are the backbone of any peer-reviewed paper. My special gratitude therefore for their unselfishly invested time and effort.

It has consistently amazed me during my years as editor, that a factor originally designed to rank a journal altogether is persistently accepted to rank individual publications and individual researchers (cumulated impact factor, h-index, g-index). Faculty rankings based on impact factor neglect smaller specialty groups (e.g., ophthalmology) in favour of outnumbering specialty groups (e.g., internal medicine). Impact factor considers only two years of output. Editors may be enticed to prefer papers that are expected to attract more attention over other original, relevant but less hot topics, and over case reports. It will still result in counting

citations, but rather citations of papers, than citations of journals. I acknowledge that rescaling citation counts and resorting publications to gain more universality requires extensive data collection, and needs to be done. This would be a great help for review boards and appointment commissions.

Costs (publication, subscription) are a constant topic. Scientific societies negotiate group subscription prices. Individual authors are sometimes urged to subsidize color prints, and scientific exchange may become compromised by fees for downloads. Since data acquisition, storage and manuscript formulation is being paid for by universities and research organizations, review is being provided free of charge; this leaves editorial management, printing and marketing (if necessary) to the publisher. The scientific writer is primarily interested in circulation with as few barriers as possible. This opens a new sphere of activity for libraries providing editorial management and open-access publication (e.g., German Medical Science, National Library of Medicine of Germany).

Whatever change in conditions is to come, I am sure the oldest scientific journal in Ophthalmology will adapt and thrive as it did so far. Sympathies assured.

I wish all the best to the new Editor-in-Chief, and look forward to seeing the journal develop and grow in the future.

B. Kirchhof (✉)
University of Cologne,
Cologne, Germany
e-mail: bekirchhof@googlemail.com