European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: 20 years old, impact factor 2.821

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We can now celebrate the 20th anniversary of European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (ECAP). The first issue of ECAP appeared officially in January 1992 and started with a review paper by Michael Rutter and Seija Sandberg on “Psychosocial stressors: concepts, causes and effects”. Officially, since the launch of the journal in fact took place at the congress of the European Society for Child and Adolescents Psychiatry (ESCAP) in London, September 1991. At the same time, the first supplement was published that provided a comprehensive and detailed overview by Gregory O’Brien on various instruments for measuring psychopathology and problem behaviours in children as well as in adults with developmental disorders. Since then, ECAP has further developed and expanded from an initial 4 issues to currently 12 issues per year that cover about 700 pages.

ECAP is still linked to ESCAP and will continue to provide a forum and outlet for all members of the various component national societies of child and adolescent psychiatry that are united under the umbrella of ESCAP. The relationship with ESCAP has intensified recently by the launch of the ESCAP newsletter section and the messages of the president of ESCAP. Notwithstanding this, ECAP has become a truly international and even global journal,

with readership and submissions from all over the world. Just looking at the past 3 years, 83 % of all published papers had European first authors, whereas 7 % of published papers were from Asia, 7 % from the Northern American Continent, and 3 % from Africa, South-America, Australia and New Zealand. European papers are distributed over the following countries: The Netherlands (15 %), United Kingdom (14 %), Germany (12 %), Finland (8 %), Norway (7 %), Spain (7 %), Denmark (6 %), Belgium (5 %), Sweden (5 %), Italy (4 %), France (4 %) and Switzerland (4 %).

ECAP’s aim is to further a broad understanding of psychopathology in children and adolescents. Contributions are encouraged from all around the world. Empirical research is its foundation, and clinical relevance is its hallmark. We welcome in particular papers covering neuropsychiatry, cognitive neuroscience, genetics, neuroimaging, pharmacology and related fields of interest. Reports on prospective longitudinal studies as well as on randomized medical and non-medical interventions are also on the priority list. For the next years, ECAP will also pay special attention to large research programs on child and adolescent psychopathology sponsored by the European Union’s programmes, such as in the context of the 7th framework, Marie-Curie and Innovative Medicines Initiatives. Finally, a target will be to publish on European guidelines and best practices for the main child and adolescent psychiatry disorders. Whereas many national societies increasingly prepare and release often multidisciplinary guidelines for screening, assessment and treatment of psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents, European guidelines are rare. Much is to be gained from a careful comparison of diagnostic and therapeutic approaches across Europe, as well as from a thorough discussion of whether, how and why primary papers on evidence are differentially

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weighted by professionals working in different mental health systems, contexts and societies.

ECAP's impact factor jumped last year to 2.821! This is a recognition of the value the journal offers to clinical

professionals, researchers and patients and society. Let us work together in further improving ECAP and in providing impetus to meet its aims.