Does a learned journal require regular re-vamping?

A. van Belkum¹

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Publishing in the clinical microbiology and infectious diseases' arena

Many journals exist in our field and they all have their different merits, levels of visibility, and scientific reputation. Although the impact factor (IF) is an important parameter, it is certainly not the only quality determinant of a journal. For instance, the composition of the editorial board reflects the interest of key opinion leaders in a certain research field as promoted by a journal, and this helps to clinically and scientifically position such a journal. We have recently revamped the Advisory Board for the European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases. Not because of dissatisfaction with the activities of previous Board members, but simply because being an Advisory Board member involves “activities” and we all have very busy agendas. So we would really like to thank, in alphabetical order, Matthew Falagas, Tim Harrison, Andy Hoepelman, Thierry Naas, Mike Pfaller, Marc Struelens, Ken Waites, Andreas Widmer, and Victor Yu for their past and, hopefully continued, support, albeit that the latter will be in a less formal fashion. We welcome new Board members. Nathan Wildeboer, Jordi Rello, Camilla Rodrigues, and François Vandenesch have kindly accepted to become actively involved in

the management of the journal. When inviting the new Board members, we asked them to facilitate the following:

1. To allow us to “use” their good name and standing in the field of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases to draw attention to the journal and to try and attract good papers in their respective fields of expertise.
2. To ask them to think about possible improvements for the journal, whatever way it comes.
3. If compatible with their busy agendas, to submit (mini) reviews or editorials on topics of their personal interest.
4. To permit us to pick their brains for the possible development of special issues.
5. To ask them to keep the European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases in mind if they themselves or their close colleagues submit papers for publication.

So, in short: we would like our Advisory Board members to be real ambassadors for the journal! Of course, we will try to organize board meetings, for instance during scientific conferences. However, the past has learned us that communication via e-mail is often more time-efficient. Dr. Willem van Leeuwen will stay on as Mini-review Editor for the years to come and feel free to address him should you have suggestions for topics or if you would have papers immediately available. Over the past years, Willem has managed to attract quite some mini-reviews that were essentially updates of major reviews written by the authors *in spe* three to four years ago. This gives the authors an opportunity

✉ A. van Belkum
alex.vanbelkum@biomerieux.com

¹ bioMérieux, Scientific Office, 3, route de Port Michaud, 38390 La Balme-les-Grottes, France

Table 1 Most frequently downloaded papers published in the European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases as monitored between 2011 and 2015

Reference	DOI	Number of Downloads
Gable et al. 2009 [1]	10.1007/S10096-009-0799-0	4448
Krzyściak et al. 2014 [2]	10.1007/S10096-013-1993-7	3458
Reynolds 1989 [3]	10.1007/BF01967563	2203
Dunne et al. 2012 [4]	10.1007/S10096-012-1641-7	2132
Kohno et al. 2013 [5]	10.1007/S10096-012-1754-Z	2132
Nicodemo and Garcia Paez 2007 [6]	10.1007/S10096-007-0279-3	2077
Döring et al. 2014 [7]	10.1007/S10096-013-1998-2	1943
Gullo et al. 2013 [8]	10.1007/S10096-013-1915-8	1932
Torres et al. 2014 [9]	10.1007/S10096-014-2067-1	1804
Gaspar et al. 2013 [10]	10.1007/S10096-013-1876-Y	1759
Cunha 2012 [11]	10.1007/S10096-012-1680-0	1751
Kothavade et al. 2013 [12]	10.1007/S10096-012-1766-8	1724

to succinctly summarize the most recent developments in their field and, for us, it generates good papers that are usually extremely timely. Another “easy” category of mini-reviews to be exploited are the literature summaries that are a standard part of the PhD theses of young investigators. Again, these papers are complete and timely, and publishing such chapters generates additional and free visibility for young authors and their scientific mentors.

A new category of papers?

Scientific and also clinical research as published in scholarly journals is quite often externally funded and major clinical and scientific consortia are constantly developed in order for scientists to be more competitive and visible. Many such consortia get funded and, in

general, the proposed work is executed successfully. Given the complexity and size of such consortia, the overall coherence of the work performed is not always clearly visible. We have given this considerable thought and we now offer authors the opportunity to review the outcomes and productivity of such collaborative efforts. In a forthcoming issue, you will see the first example of such a “Project Review” paper. Koulenti and colleagues review the overall achievements of the EU-CAP/VAP project (Koulenti D, Tsigou E, Rello J. Nosocomial pneumonia in 27 ICUs in Europe: perspectives from the EU-VAP/CAP study. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis*. 2016 Jun 10. [Epub ahead of print] Review). We will start soliciting for additional Project Review papers as you read! Summarizing achievements through a Project Review paper enhances the yield of a project, improves its visibility, and, one never knows, may, in the end, contribute to the acquisition of new grants.

Table 2 Most cited papers published in the European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases over the past 5 years

Reference	DOI	Total citations
Guiso et al. 2011 [13]	10.1007/s10096-010-1104-y	64
Ahmad et al. 2011 [14]	10.1007/s10096-010-1050-8	59
van Hal et al. 2011 [15]	10.1007/s10096-010-1128-3	56
Montassier et al. 2013 [16]	10.1007/s10096-013-1819-7	48
Dancer 2011 [17]	10.1007/s10096-011-1250-x	47
Dubourg et al. 2013 [18]	10.1007/s10096-012-1787-3	43
Antinori et al. 2012 [19]	10.1007/s10096-011-1276-0	42
Dunne et al. 2012 [4]	10.1007/s10096-012-1641-7	41
Lambiase et al. 2011 [20]	10.1007/s10096-011-1182-5	40
Wang et al. 2012 [21]	10.1007/s10096-011-1328-5	39

Fig. 1 Annual increases in the yearly number of manuscripts submitted to the European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases. Note that, now in the middle of 2016, we are up to more than 600 submissions

To re-vamp or not?

Journals offer services to a variety of audiences and ours is one of researchers in the field of laboratory science and clinical infectious diseases studies. We do tend not to focus too much on the impact factor of the journal (although our IF did rise from 2.668 for 2014 to 2.857 for 2015) but, rather, provide a forum for publishing practically valuable and clinically actionable research for actors in the field of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. We are constantly trying to improve quality and attract the best work in this field. This, as you understand, is highly competitive and, for that, we need the support of our Advisory Board and, of course, the support of you, our readers. However, the journal as it is to date has successfully survived for decades and is in good shape. For that, we will, of

course, continue evolving the journal, but we will do so at a leisurely pace at most.

Thank you

We thank you, our readers and authors, for your continued support. The European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases is a healthy journal which is still well-circulated in paper format, a feature that many of our readers still seem to enjoy in this increasingly electronic era. Feel free to reach out to me and Willem with specific requests, especially if you would be interested in writing a Project Review manuscript. Tables 1 and 2 as well as Figs. 1 and 2 as included in this editorial give you a small glimpse as to the development of the journal over the past period and, to me, this all looks positive. Looking forward to seeing your best work

Fig. 2 Overall number of downloads of papers published in the European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases over the past 4 years. Note that, in 2013, we facilitated free downloading for a series of well-cited papers

published in the European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases!

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