

*Editorial***Diabetologia – 25 years**

The first issue of *Diabetologia* appeared in August 1965 and this editorial commemorates the birth of the journal 25 years ago. Since its beginning the purpose of *Diabetologia* has been to serve as the official organ for the EASD and as a medium for the diffusion of knowledge on various aspects of diabetes within a worldwide scientific community. The early history of the journal was written 5 years ago in conjunction with the 20th anniversary [1] when a Jubilee Issue was published. The present editorial will neither repeat what was said in such a brilliant way nor give way to various thoughts of self-praise or self-criticism which may come into the mind of an editor on an occasion such as this.

In a previous editorial [2] I pointed out that a scientific journal is a quadruped with legs comprised of the authors, the referees, the readership and the publisher. The leading role of the authors in defining the quality of a scientific journal is indisputable, and after 25 years we owe a great deal of gratitude to all those clinical and basic scientists who have submitted their manuscripts to *Diabetologia*. As a token of appreciation we have now taken the liberty of looking into the rear-view mirror to find out which of the authors have made the most-cited contributions to our journal over these years and which kinds of articles have been the most read and cited. With the aid of the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia the 25 most-cited articles have been identified and the total number of citations calculated for each one.

The most-cited articles are listed in Table 1. We have included only the first author's name in the Table and refer the interested reader to the Reference list for full information on each article. It is remarkable that the same author is the first and only name on the three top papers on the list. Lise Heding, working at the Novo Research Institute in Copenhagen, published, within 5 years, three papers related to the determination of islet-derived peptides in blood namely C-peptide, total serum insulin and pancreatic and gut glucagon. Each of these has been cited more than 400 times and the two foremost received their most frequent citations more than 12 years after publication. This is a most exceptional contribution and we are pleased to pay a tribute of gratitude to Dr. Heding.

A look at the geographic origin of the most cited articles shows Denmark in a leading position followed by USA, France and United Kingdom. Not surprisingly, authors from these countries are among those who, over the years, have submitted most manuscripts to the journal. A crude subdivision of all the papers in Table 1 into articles classified as review papers or those dealing with either methodology, clinical science or basic research shows that the review articles are the most numerous, while papers in

each of the other categories are represented with smaller but roughly equal numbers. It is edifying to see that several recipients of the Minkowski and Claude Bernard Awards are among the most-cited authors, with three of them, Prof. Werner Creutzfeldt, Dr. Douglas Coleman and Prof. Pierre



Dr. Lise G. Heding

Freychet, each appearing twice on the list. Finally, the time it takes for an article to reach its peak citation rate varies a great deal, although the shortest average time, about 3 years, is to be found among the review papers. It is also of some interest (and of considerable worry to the editor) that the most recent article on the list was published in 1980. I leave the interpretation of this observation to the readers.

What is listed in Table 1 is only the very tip of an iceberg of manuscripts which have been submitted during the last 25 years. Since 1965 over 6400 manuscripts have been scrutinized by the referees and the editors and have generated an endless flow of correspondence. Most probably these activities have also generated endless feelings of disappointment and frustration among those innumerable authors whose manuscripts were not accepted, and feelings of satisfaction among those select few whose product passed through the eye of the needle. Without this multitude of manuscripts our journal would not be what it is today and I express a sincere gratitude to all authors for their efforts and contributions.

This commemorative editorial should not end without an attempt to look into the crystal ball of the future. Glasnost and perestroika in the eastern parts of Europe with the opening of the borders for a free flow of individuals and

Table 1. The 25 most cited articles in *Diabetologia* ranked according to total number of citations. Only the first author's name is given. Categories are M: methodology; B: basic research; R: reviews and C: clinical research. The year when the article received most citations is given to the right of the category

No. of citations	First author	Year of publication	Country	Category	Cit. peak yr	Ref.
562	Heding LG	1975	Denmark	M	1987	3
486	Heding LG	1972	Denmark	M	1986	4
407	Heding LG	1971	Denmark	M	1980	5
325	Larsson LI	1976	Sweden	B	1980	6
273	Tchobroutsky G	1978	France	R	1984	7
243	Creutzfeldt W	1979	West Germany	R	1980	8
242	Milner RDG	1967	UK	B	1976	9
221	Coleman DL	1967	USA	B	1970	10
218	Heath H	1971	UK	C	1981	11
209	Hansen AP	1970	Denmark	C	1977	12
197	Gorden P	1980	USA	R	1983	13
190	Malaisse WJ	1973	Belgium	R	1975	14
187	Clarke BF	1979	UK	R	1986	15
186	Spiro RG	1976	USA	R	1978	16
185	Bensoussan D	1975	France	C	1981	17
184	Creutzfeldt W	1973	West Germany	C	1975	18
183	Kemp CB	1973	USA	B	1977	19
177	Loubatieres A	1969	France	B	1972	20
172	Gliemann J	1967	Denmark	B	1983	21
167	Boden G	1967	USA	M	1972	22
163	Freychet P	1976	France	R	1977	23
163	Welch SG	1978	UK	M	1981	24
162	Svendsen PAa	1980	Denmark	C	1982	25
159	Deckert T	1978	Denmark	C	1986	26
155	Coleman DL	1978	USA	R	1982	27

ideas will probably boost the scientific activities including diabetology in this region. We invite our eastern colleagues to submit their manuscripts to *Diabetologia* and we hope they will subscribe to our journal. In the western part of Europe the development of the European Community should be a further incitement to medical research, and a growing interest in diabetes, one of the most common and devastating diseases of the area, can be anticipated: this, hopefully, will lead to increased circulation of our journal not only throughout Europe but worldwide. If, and when, these changes will lead to progress in diabetes research in terms of more efficient treatment and of cure and prevention of the disease is more difficult to assess. Looking back over the almost 70 years which have elapsed since the discovery of insulin it must be admitted that the progress in these regards has been limited. Many black boxes remain to be opened in our field of research and each is a challenge to our intellect and creativity. Meanwhile *Diabetologia* is proud to continue its role as an intermediary between those who expand the knowledge about diabetes and those who apply it to the care of their patients.

Claes Hellerström
Editor-in-Chief

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