Looking backwards and forward at the same time

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This year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the KSSTA journal. Those of us involved in the journal—some of us on a daily basis—are extremely proud of our journal. We have seen it growing and becoming strong. In fact, we can proudly say that it is now one of the leading journals in the world, both in the categories of orthopaedics and sports sciences. KSSTA has evolved and increased in size and content. This has happened year by year. Looking back 10 years, the journal has increased in size from 90 pages per month to 325 pages per month, and at the same time the impact factor

has increased every year and is now well above 3.0. Again, we strongly feel that we are well established as a “3+ journal”. But, we aim higher, of course. That can only be done by attracting and publishing the very best papers.

We count on more than 650 reviewers and without their tireless work there would be no journal. The high-quality work by the reviewers is reflected by an increasing number of published papers with high scientific impact. We are immensely grateful to the reviewers doing high-quality work week after week. The only reward for doing good work is more work, as we all know. Thank you reviewers, for your good and timely work. Thank you very much, again.

We, the editors, have discussed a few changes that we hope will lead us forward and make the journal even better. We would like to increase the discussion around the journal in an open and constructive manner. We would like to encourage journal authors and readers to raise their voice and ask critical scientific questions, which may open a constructive atmosphere around the journal. In the same way, we will change the traditional meetings during the ESSKA Congress and make them more interactive and in this manner we can maintain our intention to publish the

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strongest papers. This will also allow us to maintain and improve the impact factor even further.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of published articles. Currently, we publish around 40 papers every month. This means that out of 1,600 submissions, we publish almost 500 papers. But, this also means that we reject more than 1,000 manuscripts every year. This year, our rejection rate will be the highest ever. However, we are thankful that you consider our journal for publication of your scientific work even when we are unable to accept all the submissions. We have noticed an interesting trend that over a 20-year period the mean number of authors per article has increased from four to almost six; in other words, more and more researchers are involved. We have also noticed a significant increase in the number of Level I and Level II studies. In 1995, the journal published 42 articles, and in 2015 the number had risen to 521 articles. We have published articles in some new categories such as historical papers, often more than one editorial per issue; we try hard to publish controversial editorials, papers, which will be remembered and discussed; we also do our best to follow the trends, for instance anterolateral knee rotatory instability (a full theme issue was published in 2017) and same day knee arthroplasty surgery. However,

today we publish fewer experimental studies, as most of them are transferred to our partner, Journal of Experimental Orthopaedics.

We have noticed that the number of submitted systematic reviews and meta-analyses have increased significantly. These studies are able to improve the scientific content and we encourage submission of this type of papers. However, these papers need to be of high scientific quality. In addition, these papers need to add to our current knowledge and be able to change patient care.

There will be no change in the editorial team and we are excited to announce that the editorial team will remain the same as last year. At the ESSKA Congress in Glasgow, we will announce the reviewers of the year 2017. To tell you the truth, we are having big difficulty in selecting only three reviewers, due to the high quality of your work.

Again, we also would like to thank Springer Verlag, especially Gabriele Schröder for a fruitful collaboration over the years. A big thank you also goes to the ESSKA Board and the ESSKA office. Thank you, in particular, to Romain Seil and Zhanna Kovalchuk for the constructive collaboration. Last, but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to our editorial office team, under the leadership of Runeeta Rai: you deserve the biggest “thank you”!

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