



## Look to the future

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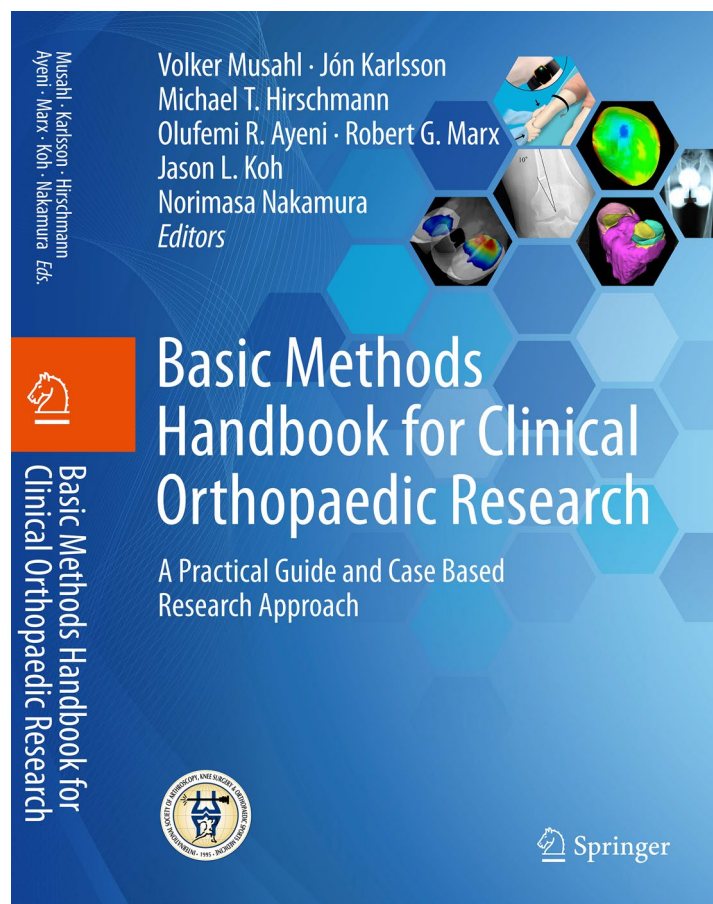
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Yet, another year has passed. As usual, we would like to thank everyone who is involved in the journal for the tireless work you all do. The reviewers, who provide top-class reviews over and over again, are the backbone of the journal. We know that it takes time to review. We also know that it is unglamorous work and we are well aware that we probably ask many of our best reviewers too often. However, a good review is probably the best thing that can happen to a manuscript and many times a reviewer is also an author to a paper or papers published in the journal. In addition, by reviewing, you learn and you become a better author. We have repeatedly seen that the best reviews are in fact done by the best authors. Therefore, all great reviewers please keep up the good work and we look forward to receive your submissions as authors next year.

Overall, KSSTA has a standing of a strong scientific journal, which makes us happy as we look to a bright future. We feel that the journal is now well established as a +3 Impact Factor journal. We admit that we were somewhat disappointed that the Impact Factor stayed the same as in 2017, but this only means that we need to work even harder and look to the future. With even better papers published, better reviews and better Editorial work, we will see an improved

Impact Factor in the years to come, so we are not worried. Our ranking is high and we stay in the Top-10 range in Sports Sciences and Orthopaedics. This is wonderful news.

How can we improve? First of all, we have even further raised the bar for acceptance, and currently, we reject between 70 and 80% of all submitted manuscripts. We often do this using the “rapid reject” process, where manuscripts are rejected already at Editorial stage level, within a week or so. The “rapid reject” always happens after two of the Editors have read the manuscript. The question is why we reject already at this early stage. The reason for this is always manuscript quality. We mainly reject manuscripts with limited scientific news value, limited cohorts, lack of IRB Approvals and problems with statistics. The most common problem is related to small cohorts and subgroup analysis, leading to type-II statistical errors. Another problem is limited clinical impact. We feel that this approach is good, not only for the journal, but also for the authors, as they receive a quick response from the journal. In fact, we have received very few complaints from authors related to the “rapid reject” process.

The Journal of Experimental Orthopaedics (JEO) is continuing to get stronger. This is possible due to the constant increase in submissions. However, this is not only due to the high number of submissions, but also due to the fact

that KSSTA now is solely a clinical journal, and therefore, the experimental work is directed to JEO. We feel that this has been successful, and we will continue to work in this direction.

This year, the number of submissions has increased to 1800 compared with 1600 during the last 2 years. The increased number of submissions increases the workload on the Editors and the Editorial Office. Therefore; starting in January 2019, there will be two people working for the journal at the Editorial Office in Luxembourg.

To increase the collaboration with the reviewers, we stage a journal reviewer course during the ESSKA congresses, last time in Glasgow this year. The course was very well attended, and was more interactive than ever before—a good sign!

What lies ahead? First of all, we will increase the collaboration with the largest sports traumatology/arthroscopy societies in Europe. Starting January 2019 with AGA (Germany) and SFA (France), we will add two Associate Editors, who will take care of this project. Therefore, we welcome Peter Angele and Nicolas Pujol in these positions, respectively. We are sure that this project will be strong and will help lead the journal forward in a positive direction.

Several scientific journals have in the last few years developed a new online publication line, for instance, American Journal of Sports Medicine (AJSM) who have been very successful in creating OJSM (Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine). Other journals have followed. Due to the increasing number of submissions, KSSTA will move in the same direction. We simply need to find place to publish all good manuscripts submitted to the journal. At the same time, we feel that 330 pages/month is the maximum size of the journal, and we have no plans to increase the number of pages. We are currently in negotiations with Springer, our publisher about the most relevant business model, online or paper or hybrid. The plan is to launch the new journal during the ESSKA Speciality Days in Madrid in November 2019.

This group of Editors has worked for the journal for years now and both Michael Hirschmann and Volker Musahl are now Deputy Editors along with Roland Becker, who will continue to support the journal in his new position as second vice president of ESSKA. In this way, the excellent communication between the ESSKA Board and the Editors will be even stronger.

Our goal is always good research, and as Editors, we strive to improve the scientific value of papers published in the journal. The review process is—due to this reason—often long and cumbersome. Almost all manuscripts that are eventually published undergo at least two revisions and some even three or four. As already mentioned, a good review makes the manuscript a better paper, and therefore, authors should always do their best to comply with the review process. In fact, almost all second, third, and fourth revisions

are done by the Editor-in-Chief. Our goal is to publish the best papers possible. However, we also do more, as during the last year, we have worked hard on a new "Basic Methods Handbook for Clinical Orthopaedic Research", aimed at clinicians. This book will be published as a joint effort by ESSKA and ISAKOS at the beginning of 2019. It will be over 600 pages and will cover every aspect of clinical research. We worked tirelessly to make this book an easy read with numerous clinical case examples, fact boxes, and take home messages for every chapter. This book will help clinical scientists to improve their scientific knowledge, perform better studies, and write better papers. We are proud of this work and we are excited to bring this work to you, our readers, in 2019.

Finally, we, the Editors of KSSTA, would like to thank readers, authors, and reviewers for the year that is almost passed. We wish you a peaceful holiday season, may all of you enjoy time with your families and recharge for a productive, enjoyable, and scientifically rewarding year 2019.

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