



50 years of *Neuroradiology*

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Welcome to the second decade of the twenty-first century.

While the President of the European Society of Neuroradiology addresses the future of neuroradiologists in this issue [1], I invite you to look back to 1970 when the first issue of *Neuroradiology* appeared. Professor Erik Lindgren, one Head of the famous Stockholm School of Neuroradiology, noted on the first pages of our Journal that “Neuroradiology is still such a young speciality that it has not yet been accepted in some countries as an independent discipline” [2]. Lindgren recognized the need for specialized physicians who devoted themselves exclusively to the new field of radiology possessing, “in addition to a good grounding in medicine in general, a satisfactory knowledge of technical aspects, physics, and radiobiology.” He further argued that “without doubt, the best result is obtained if both clinician and radiologist, each on the whole working independently of the other, carry their own investigations as far as possible towards a diagnosis” and that “the need for specialization in the field of diagnostic radiology is becoming increasingly evident” [1]. To satisfy the demands for adequate radiological examinations made by new special sections of medicine like neurosurgery and neurology, a separate radiological speciality was required. Lindgren was convinced that the new journal – *Neuroradiology* – would “undoubtedly promote further progress in this field and will strengthen the standing of neuroradiology” [1].

Neuroradiology appeared in April 1970, representing one of the first scientific journals solely devoted to this young medical speciality. Volume 1 consisted of four issues publishing 40 original papers and four editorials. Since 1997, 12 issues per year have been regularly published. In the Journal’s second editorial after Lindgren’s, Herman Fischgold described the development of neuroradiology from 1922 [3]. Thereafter, D. Gordon Potts addressed the research

activities of neuroradiologists [4], and B.G. Ziedses des Plantes described the clinical responsibilities of neuroradiologists as “more than making nice radiographs of neurological lesions” covering “activities before, during and after the x-ray examination” [5].”

In 1970, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and endovascular interventions had yet to be introduced into clinical medicine. Twenty-seven of 40 original *Neuroradiology* articles published in 1970 dealt with the anatomy and pathology of cerebral vessels as well as angiographic techniques. Additionally, *Neuroradiology* published eight papers on pneumoencephalography findings, among them “Roentgendagnosis of subdural hygroma in infants”, featuring encephalography as the primary methodology [6]. Finally, there were two papers applying early scintigraphy and three each on the use of either ultrasound, myelography with pantopaque or conventional radiography.

In 1972, R. Djindjian tackled “the future for angiography in Neuroradiology”, emphasizing the advantages of femoral catheterization and its potential as an effective therapeutic method [7]. One year later, he presented the first results of endovascular therapy in *Neuroradiology* [8]. While indications for endovascular therapy widened steadily during the following years and decades, CT and MRI revolutionized diagnostic neuroradiology by visualizing central nervous system in-vivo tissue. The first CT scan appeared in *Neuroradiology* in 1975 [9] and the first MRI scan in 1978 [10]. In hindsight, 45 years later, it is hard to understand why J. Bull opened his remarkable editorial on “The changing face of Neuroradiology over nearly forty years” with the comment, “Many younger men are very concerned that Computerized Axial Tomography is virtually destroying neuroradiology” [11]. He wisely continued: “I understand their concern but do not share it”. Shortly thereafter, the first neuroradiological observations with CT were published in *Neuroradiology* [12] and the first clinical observations with MRI were published in 1982 [13].

For 50 years, *Neuroradiology* has closely followed the revolutionary development of diagnostic and interventional neuroradiology and will continue to do so through challenging

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times of digitalisation in medicine, ultimately strengthening the Journal's standing. I thank our editorial and reviewing team for selecting the best scientific papers in our field. I am grateful for the technical support by our publisher as well as the ideas and criticism provided by the members of the Editorial Board. My special thanks go to those Members who have served for six or more years on our Editorial Board and will now retire to create space for new members.

Prof. Dr. med. Rüdiger von Kummer.
Editor-in-Chief.

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