

## Journal performance report

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On 1 July 2009, the *International Journal of Legal Medicine* instituted an electronic manuscript submission and reviewing process by introducing *Editorial Manager* [1]. In the meantime, the editorial board was strengthened with the addition of T. Bajanowski [2], and B. Brinkmann terminated his work as Editor-in-Chief [3]. Now, 20 months later, we feel it is time to analyse the development of the journal during this eventful period.

First of all and most importantly, the impact factor rose yet again from 2.574 in 2009 to 2.793 in 2010. This could not have been achieved without the intensive work and excellent collaboration of all editors and reviewers.

In the 16 months from 1 July 2009 to 31 October 2010, a total of 455 manuscripts dealing with all fields of legal medicine were submitted to the journal office (Table 1). This is a significant increase over previous years. This is

**Table 1** Number and type of manuscripts submitted to the *Int J Legal Med* in the 16-month period, 1 July 2009 to 31 Oct. 2010

Type of article	Number submitted ( <i>n</i> )	Rejection rate (%) <sup>a</sup>	Fields of legal medicine				
			Pathology	DNA	Identification	Toxicology	Others
(Invited) review	19	68.4	7	1	2	4	5
Original work	266	57.9	63	76	53	24	50
Short communication	27	48.1	4	18	3	1	1
Technical note	28	61.3	2	14	6	1	5
Case report	102	83.3	74	3	4	12	9
Letter	11	36.4	1	4	1	1	4
Announcement	1	100	0	1	0	0	0
Book review	1	100	0	0	0	0	1
Total	455	69.4	151	117	69	43	75

<sup>a</sup> The rejection rate is calculated for the 429 manuscripts for which a final decision has already been made

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**Table 2** Average time required for the administrative steps of the peer-review process

Task	Time (days)
Technical check after submission	0.6
Technical check to editor assignment	0.3
Reviewer invitation	4.9
Reviewer response	4.7
Time to complete review	17.9
Total time from submission to final decision	37.0

**Table 3** Names of all reviewers are listed in order of the number of reviews completed

Name	Name	Name
Schmeling, Andreas	Grundmann, Claus	De Stefano, Francesco
Rolf, Burkhard	Henßge, Claus	Desel, Herbert
Köhnemann, Stephan	Holck, Per	Diegoli, Toni
Madea, Burkhard	Kayser, Manfred	Eisenmenger, Wolfgang
Fracasso, Tony	Kernbach-Wighton, Gerhard	Ferrara, S. Davide
Püschel, Klaus	Keyvani, Kathy	Fieguth, Armin
Skopp, Gisela	Klintschar, Michael	Gaburro Paneto, Greiciane
Wiegand, Peter	Meißner, Christoph	Olze, Andreas
Bajanowski, Thomas	Roewer, Lutz	Gurney, Susan
Forster, Peter	Solheim, Tore	Haas, Cordula
Poetsch, Micaela	Vennemann, Mechthild	Haskell, Neil H.
Lessig, Rüdiger	Yen, Kathrin	Iwersen-Bergmann, Stefanie
Olze, Andreas	Baba, Hideo	Jakowski, Christian
Parson, Walther	Byard, Roger W.	Jones, Alan Wayne
Verhoff, Marcel A.	Fehren-Schmitz, Lars	Kintz, Pascal
Busuttill, Anthony	Lutz-Bonengel, Sabine	Krämer, Thomas
Fineschi, Vittorio	Mangin, Patrice	Krawczak, Michael
Budowle, Bruce	Müller, Miriam	Lehnerdt, Götz F.
Amendt, Jens	Paine, Robert	Lösch, Sandra
Dettmeyer, Reinhard	Peters, Frank	Oesterhelweg, Lars
Inoue, Hiromasa	Prinz, Mechthild	Parzeller, Markus A.
Sperhake, Jan Peter	Rötzscher, Klaus	Popp, Randi K.
Karger, Bernd	Scheurer, Eva	Rath, Peter-Michael
Pollak, Stefan	Schlamann, Marc	Rognum, Torleiv Ole
Schmidt, Sven	Bär, Walter	Rühli, Frank
Banaschak, Sibylle	Bernitz, Hermann	Sánchez-Diz, Paula
Bohnert, Michael	Black, Sue	Schmidt, Peter
Ge, Jianye	Bolliger, Stephan	Schmidt, Peter Harald
Ludes, Bertrand	Bratzke, Hansjürgen	Schmidt, Ulrike
Musshoff, Frank	Buckleton, John Simon	Solveig-Derbertin, Anette
Nishi, Katsuji	Butler, John M.	Spalding, Kirsty L.
Ritz-Timme, Stefanie	Carabott, Romina	Stray-Pedersen, Arne
Vennemann, Marielle	Daldrup, Thomas	Taylor, Jane
Beike, Justus	Danesino, Paolo	Thali, Michael J.
Betz, Peter	Franklin, Daniel	Tyler-Smith, Chris
Coble, Michael D.	Grassberger, Martin	Vieira, Duarte Nuno
Dreßler, Jan	Große Perdekamp, Markus	Wang, Tsewei
Edelmann, Jeanett	Küpper, Uta	Wilkinson, Caroline
Hausmann, Roland	Liversidge, Helen	
Schyma, Christian	Mall, Gita	
Szibor, Reinhard	Matschke, Jakob	
Graw, Matthias	Parsons, Thomas J.	
Kondo, Toshikazu	Pfeiffer, Heidi	
Mützel, Elisabeth	Pragst, Fritz	
Rothschild, Markus	Riepert, Thomas	
Seidl, Stephan	Rösing, Friedrich W.	
Weinmann, Wolfgang	Rutty, Guy	
Büttner, Andreas	Sidebotham, Peter D.	
Ishikawa, Takaki	Trübner, Kurt	
Kneubuehl, Beat P.	Aderjan, Rolf	
Köhler, Helga	Brinkmann, Bernd	
Paulus, Werner	Carracedo, Ángel	
Schneider, Peter M.	Cecchi, Rossana	
Tsokos, Michael	Cusack, Dennis A.	
Fimmers, Rolf	de Pancorbo, Marian	

predominantly due to an increased number of manuscript submissions from Asia, and it is probably a consequence of the introduction of the electronic manuscript submission system. In total, 1,132 reviews were requested, and 918 times, a reviewer agreed to review (81%). As of the end of December 2010, the reviewing process had come to a final decision for 429 manuscripts (139 were accepted, 290 rejected; a rejection rate of 69%). It proved possible to reduce the average time required for a final decision to 37 days (Table 2).

As editors, we are aware that the success of the journal depends mainly on thorough and timely reviewing. Therefore, we would like to express our respect and gratefulness

to all 160 scientists who worked actively as reviewers for the journal in this time period. In the following, the names of all reviewers are listed in order of the number of reviews completed (Table 3).

## References

1. Brinkmann B, Pfeiffer H (2009) International journal of legal medicine's manuscript submission and peer-review system goes electronic! *Int J Leg Med* 123:187
2. Brinkmann B, Pfeiffer H (2009) Welcoming Professor Thomas Bajanowski. *Int J Leg Med* 123:361
3. Pfeiffer H, Bajanowski T (2010) Editorial. *Int J Leg Med* 124:175