Celebrating 150-year anniversary!

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From the findings on the sexual maturity of the recently discovered Greenland shark, we know that, even after a century and a half, life is just starting to get fun [8]. As Pflügers Archiv–European Journal of Physiology is celebrating its 150th birthday in December 2018, it's high time to take a short look-back, to briefly review the journal's current status, and to outline its future development.

Originally founded by Eduard Pflüger as the world's first journal in the field of physiology, Pflügers Archiv has published many groundbreaking papers from all areas of physiology. This can easily be seen in just a few prominent examples: At the beginning of the twentieth century, W. Einthoven developed the basics of cardiac electrophysiology, which were later published in Pflügers Archiv [2]. In 1965, Kornhuber and Deeke also chose our journal to describe the readiness potential as the first measurable brain signal of intended movements [7]. As some of our readers surely remember, Rainer Greger's group used several Pflügers Archiv papers to publish their findings on the basics of Na/K/Cl⁻ co-transport in the early 1980s [4, 5]. At roughly the same time, when the patch-clamp technique was introduced, the groups of the Nobel Prize winners Erwin Neher and Bernd Sakmann revolutionized physiology research by describing the gigaseal [6] and the sophisticated application of the patch-clamp technique to brain slices [1]. The first paper has received more than 17,600 citations to date and remains the most highly cited paper ever to be published in Pflügers Archiv. Notably, from our 10 most cited papers in the recent years, the majority deals with endothelial/vascular functions (see examples [3, 9]). As these examples demonstrate, Pflügers Archiv has always been open to the whole spectrum of physiology, and we have been rewarded by the countless scientists who have sent their excellent work to us in return. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity

and sincerely thank all of our contributors who have trusted us with the publication of their world-changing findings.

Continuing our fascinating history and in keeping with our cherished convictions, Pflügers Archiv will continue to offer a venue for all aspects of physiology—including translational research, based on physiological (dys)function. When comparing past and present scientific publications, at least two major differences can be observed. For one, the number of scientific journals and, consequently, the number of their direct competitors, have steadily increased. Secondly, a given journal's impact factor has now become the decisive argument when authors choose where to submit their manuscript. With very few exceptions, physiology journals do not tend to have high-impact factors, compared to the more applied neighboring fields of medicine. Fortunately, it has meanwhile been recognized that the impact factor is not necessarily an indicator for the quality of individual articles within a journal. Further, a recent common statement released by the British, French, and German academies of science (<https://www.leopoldina.org/en/press/news/evaluation-of-research>) even recognized this fixation on metrics as a problem and warned about the resulting dangers. The irrational belief in making the impact factor the “golden calf” threatens to undermine the integrity of science and negatively influence the editorial strategy of scientific journals. Pflügers Archiv's goal was and is to offer to its readers and authors high-quality content and the exposure to over 9600 institutions worldwide.

That being said, Pflügers Archiv does not intend to rest on its laurels and is therefore constantly working to find new ways to improve our authors' and readers' experience. Thus, we wanted to highlight a few recent and planned innovations that will help us to sustain the success of Pflügers as a constant on the physiology journal landscape:

- Pflügers Archiv–Eur J Physiology has introduced the parallel online archiving of published articles, according to preselected topical areas (<https://link.springer.com/journal/volumesAndIssues/424?tabName=topicalCollections>). This facilitates the search for

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published papers within a specific field and increases the awareness of these articles.

- Our team of international Executive Editors will now work closely together with even more experts from all over the world, covering all fields of (patho)physiology research.
- We still put emphasis on short decision times, based on the feedback we received from our authors. This is why it only took an average of 82 days after submission for an article to be published online in 2017.
- The Springer Nature SharedIt initiative offers authors the opportunity to share a link to the read-only version of their article, immediately after standard publication. This way, authors can share their work with their peers online, even without publishing open access.
- In addition to the publication of papers from the whole field of traditional physiology, our journal also provides a platform for more specific research. Thus, we will continue our tradition of highlighting specific topics in the form of Special Issues (SIs), which feature invited original and review articles. We will start off 2019 with a focus on “Phosphate transport” and continue with SIs on “Exercise Physiology: future opportunities and challenges” and “Sarcomeric mutations associated with cardiac disease.”
- To celebrate a new chapter in the Pflügers story, we will also kick off 2019 with a new journal cover that will contain annually changing illustrations from selected articles.
- The journal will also highlight individual articles in the form of fascinating editorials by our Executive Editors.
- Readers can also be on the lookout for new types of articles that will offer new perspectives on recent research developments.

We hope that our readers and contributors continue to share our enthusiasm for Pflügers Archiv, and we look forward to the next 150 years!

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