



## Memories

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It was in December 1990, shortly after the birth of my first son, when my former boss, Prof. Max Aebi, asked me if I would help him set up a new spine journal. Actually, after 7 very intensive years as his personal assistant at the Orthopaedic Clinic of Inselspital, Bern University Hospital in Switzerland, I wanted to enjoy my little family and take a break from my job. But the prospect to a home office was then too tempting, so I accepted the offer and shortly afterwards I introduced myself at Springer Publisher in Heidelberg. After a brief preparatory phase in which I set up a home office, I officially started in April 1991 as a freelancer of Springer Publisher as Editorial Office Manager of the European Spine Journal in Thörishaus/Switzerland. The announcement of the new journal started already a few weeks before in mid-February 1991. In addition to the two Coordinating Editors, Prof. M. Aebi and Prof. S. Nazarian, 8 Advisory Board and 20 Editorial Board Members could be won at the beginning. Hundreds of letters to potential authors were sent out until we finally were able to publish the first issue of the European Spine Journal in June 1992 with a volume of 60 pages. In the Editorial of this first issue, Prof. Aebi explored the question of why another spine journal was needed [1]. Although he provided sufficient arguments, it took a relatively long time for the spinal community to make friends with the new journal. Mighty efforts were needed to get high-quality papers submitted. But it has paid off. In May 1992, even prior to publication of the first issue, the European Spine Journal had already 70 subscribers. Gradually, the journal took worldwide attention and the quality of the submitted manuscripts improved increasingly. However, at this point in time we could hardly afford to reject one single manuscript in order not to jeopardize the publication of the next issue.

In 2004, Springer Publisher entered the electronic age with the European Spine Journal. As one of the first Springer

journals, the European Spine Journal was transferred to the online submission process of Manuscript Central. A soft cry went through the ranks of the authors and the reviewers! Was that really necessary? Yes, it was! At that time, already 275 new submissions were registered for the current year, whose handling was hardly possible in paper format any longer. Thanks to the European Spine Journal, the existence of the post office in Thörishaus was secured for many years due to a massive increase in sales. Shortly after we switched to the online submission process, the post office unfortunately had to close due to unprofitability! Already in 2007, the European Spine Journal moved then from Manuscript Central away to the much more user-friendly Editorial Manager System, which was equally well received by authors, reviewers and editors. Meanwhile, around 2000+ papers are submitted to the European Spine Journal per year. I think this number sufficiently answers Prof. Aebi's question of 1992 about the necessity of a new spine journal. Thanks to the tireless work of our Editors, Editorial Board, Advisory Board and Assistant Editorial Board Members, the European Spine Journal has become so successful and a world-leading journal for spine specialists. On behalf of the European Spine Journal, I would like to thank all our Board Members who, with their timely evaluation of manuscripts, enable a speedy decision-making by the Editors. And not to forget at this point are the numerous reviewers, who work tirelessly for us without being even mentioned in the journal. These were for 2018 (in alphabetical order):

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Many thanks to all of you! Hopefully, we can count on you also in the future.

Last but not least, I thank the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Robert Gunzburg, who gave me after 28 years as Editorial Office Manager the opportunity to represent the journal at a booth during EUROSPINE in Barcelona, which was a great experience for me. It was really a pleasure to meet some of our reviewers, authors, readers, our award winners as well as people from Springer Publisher, several affiliated societies and industry partners in person. Who knows, maybe we will see us again on the occasion of an upcoming meeting.

With this Editorial, I just want to say THANK YOU to everyone who continuously contributes to the success of the European Spine Journal.

I wish you all a peaceful holiday season, Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The author declares that she has no conflict of interest.

## Reference

1. Aebi M, Nazarian S (1992) Editorial: another new journal? *Eur Spine J* 1(1):1