The European Journal of Ageing at the beginning of the Decade of Healthy Ageing

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The year 2019 has seen a milestone for the interdisciplinary European Journal of Ageing: Social, Behavioural and Health Perspectives (EJA). Clarivate announced EJA's 2018 impact factor to have risen to 2.182, thus reaching for the first time the important threshold of > 2. In its journal family, EJA is well placed in the second quartile. Considering those analytics, together with the founding editors, the current editorial team is more than happy to see that EJA has been established as one of the leading journals in the field of gerontology. We consider this particularly important since—when comparing its scope and benchmarking to other fellow outlets in this area—EJA is one of the few journals that clearly has an interdisciplinary approach. EJA not only publishes original articles on the social, behavioural and health-related aspects of ageing but also especially encourages an integrated approach of those perspectives. Any researcher who works in interdisciplinary settings knows well that the idea of interdisciplinary research is easily proposed but much more difficult to implement when it comes to publishing concrete papers on specific research questions. Many authors and readers, but also editors and reviewers, still tend to feel more comfortable when original papers have a straightforward and somewhat traditional approach that relies on a disciplinary conceptual background and uses the established methods and analytical techniques of the field. Properly crossing those borders within one journal (or within a special section) and—more and more often—within single papers is one of the core missions of EJA. We

consider this a major characteristic of EJA's profile and key for the study of ageing in the twenty-first century.

Enroth et al. (2019), for example, combined issues of social stratification and health outcomes using several large data sets from different European countries. They found that individuals with higher education were more likely to report good subjective health, and that they were more often independent in mobility and daily functioning than people with basic education. Moreover, Wetzel et al. (2019) examined how a large set of resources change during the retirement transition among people who retire from paid employment as well as from other, non-working labour market statuses. In terms of resources, they hereby covered changes in income, health, activity, family and non-family network size, as well as social support, thus, analysed typical targets in health science, economy, demography and sociology.

A further emphasis has been laid upon systematic reviews identifying important interdisciplinary challenges and areas of current developments in gerontology. We are happy that EJA could attract such papers from several areas. Again, just to name of a few examples, Giraudeau and Bailly (2019) examined intergenerational programs that aim to facilitate cooperation and exchange among different age groups, a question that is currently heavily debated both in politics and in society. Another interdisciplinary paper with imminent societal significance, but in a different area, was authored by Nagarajan and colleagues (2019) who discussed organisational contributions to sustaining an ageing workforce. This is a key question for psychology, economics and public health and a core issue for translational research in gerontology.

Finally, we would like to highlight the continuing importance EJA places on methodological advancements. In 2019, we had papers of wide relevance targeting statistical issues such as non-response in surveys of very old people by Wagner et al. (2019) or data assessment issues such by Requena et al. (2019). The latter presents and discusses age- and education-adjusted normative data for the Rivermead Behavioural Memory Test (RBMT), which is one of the most widely used

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tests of cognitive functioning in healthy but also clinical settings. The RBMT places a special emphasis on a naturalistic approach, currently a hot topic in cognitive ageing in general.

Taken together, EJA is determined to continue its development along those lines and foster its role as a truly interdisciplinary outlet that contributes to the manifold challenges around research on human ageing. The year 2020 marks the beginning of the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020–2030), proposed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a global collaboration. Considering the WHO definition of healthy ageing as the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age, it is our firm belief that scientific research fully addressing this concept requires an approach that crosses traditional disciplinary borders and critically extends a disease-focussed methodology. Together with its authors, readers and reviewers, the *European Journal of Ageing: Social, Behavioural and Health Perspectives* is determined to continue offering a high-end research platform for this exciting enterprise.

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