

# Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica

## Editors' report on volume 73, 2002

### Production

The 6 regular issues of volume 73, 2002 (72, 2001) contained 719 (666) printed pages with 122 (101) Articles (17 of them case reports and technical notes), 4 (1) Editorials, 4 (2) Review articles, 7 (7) Book Reviews and 0 (4) Letters to the Editor. We have published 4 (4) Supplements. The total number of pages printed in 2002 was 976 (858).

417 manuscripts (one quarter case reports) were submitted in 2002 (2001, 444 ms; 2000, 483 ms; 1999, 454 ms; 1998, 489 ms; 1997, 502 ms; 1996, 461 ms) (Appendix, page 3). Slightly less than one third of the manuscripts were submitted from Scandinavia and The Netherlands, about the same fraction as previous years. Since several years, most manuscripts have been submitted from Japan, this year 47 (16 of them case reports).

The over all acceptance rate in 2002 was 30%, the same since 1997. The acceptance rate was lowest for case reports (Table 1).

Table 1. Type of articles submitted 2002 (2001)

	Percent	Acceptance rate
Clinical	51 (53)	0.4 (0.4)
Experimental	19 (18)	0.4 (0.5)
Case reports	30 (29)	0.1 (0.1)

The handling times were similar to those the latest 5 years. 3/4 of the authors who had their manuscripts rejected got an answer within 3 months. 8/10 of the authors who had their manuscripts accepted had an answer within 4 months. The mean time from submission to publication was for most manuscripts between 1 and 1.5 year. The mean time from acceptance to publication was 6 months. To decrease this time we have temporarily increased the number of pages per issue; the April issue 2002 comprised 129 pages, the June issue comprised 130 pages. We will do the same for several 2003 issues.

### Finances

Acta's economy has improved markedly during the last 6-7 years and is now solid with a surplus of a little more than 1 mil. Dkr above, what is considered to be "the necessary capital for two years production". However, most of the surplus has been gained as a consequence of a very favorable development in the rate of exchange of dollars and a strict focus on all expences.

As the collective subscription has been unchanged since 1996 and will stay unchanged in 2004 too, Acta

may foresee a minor deficit in 2003 and 2004. This mainly due to gradually increasing postal expences to collective subscribers and a downward tendency in the dollar exchange rate. Never the less Acta should be able to subsidize one or two single event within NOF-e.g. travel expences for a speaker from abroad at NOF courses etc.

### Subscriptions

On 31 December 2002 (2001) we had 4,580 (4,859) subscribers. 3,065 (3,020) were collective subscribers (Tables 2 and 3). The decrease (279) in the number of subscriptions should be reduced by the 200 free subscriptions to the Baltic countries, which previously have been included.

Table 2. Collective subscriptions 2001 (2002)

	2001	2002
Norway	420	420
Finland	390	384
Denmark	640	642
Sweden	1,160	1,125
Iceland	20	20
The Netherlands	435	429
Total	3,065	3,020

Table 3. Distribution of Acta in the top 11 (more than 20 subscriptions) foreign countries 2002 (2001)

USA	396	(418)
Japan	302	(335)
UK	155	(156)
Spain	64	(78)
Germany	57	(62)
Italy	50	(56)
South Korea	37	(36)
France	39	(35)
Switzerland	27	(31)
Australia	21	(20)
Canada	20	(21)

Institutional subscriptions have decreased by 16% since 1999. According to our publisher this is a general phenomenon and Acta keeps up; many journals face larger decreases.

### eACTA

Acta is on the Net since January 2002 with free 6 months after publication but is immediately free for subscribers via a password. This subscriber access has met with problems which, however, soon will be

solved. To increase the awareness of the free eACTA we will announce this in a leaflet which can be sent to collective subscribers and be enclosed in correspondence.

## Impact factor

Acta's impact factor increases. 10 years ago it was 0.6 and based on articles printed in 2001 it was 1.1 (JBJS (Am) 2.2, JBJS (Br) 1.5, CORR 1.2).

It has been clearly shown (not surprisingly) that articles that are free on the Net are more often cited. Therefore, one can expect a rise of Acta's impact factor in the future.

## Awards

The first competition for year 2000 attracted 21 manuscripts and 4 prize winners were selected. The competition for year 2001 surprisingly resulted in only 6 manuscripts and none of them were found prizeworthy at the Editors' meeting in March.

The competition for 2002 resulted in 13 manuscripts and 2 award winners were selected. The competition for 2003 attracted 10 manuscripts, 2 award winners have been selected: Jens Srensen et al.: Rapid angiogenesis and bone formation in impacted morselized allografts and Lars B. Engester et al.: Antibiotic prophylaxis in THR. At the Editors meeting March 2003 we decided to continue with the awards, 2 a year, preferably 1 for clinical and 1 for experimental research.

## Editors' meetings

The Editors have had 2 meetings, April and November. Some issues at these meetings are summarized below.

At the first meeting we selected award winners, see above. We discussed Review/How-I-do-it articles and agreed that we want more of them. We decided to increase the honorarium we offer from 5,000 to 15,000 NKR. We discussed how to get more of these articles and certain actions will be taken. We would also

appreciate if the board members help us to engage Review authors.

We decided to change our Information to authors which now will be shortened and appear in every issue. We noted that the new Euro-factor scores Acta highest (score 6.8) among European orthopedic journals.

We decided to delete the last section in Acta, Announcements. Such information on forthcoming meetings is now easily found in several orthopedic databases. One exception could be the NOF meetings which could be announced with a leaflet accompanying one or more Acta issues. We noted that 2002 years NOF meeting in Uppsala had not been announced in Acta. Bart Swierstra said that some Dutch orthopedic surgeons want to attend these meetings.

At the second meeting we discussed to start with structured abstracts but postponed a decision until next Editors' meeting.

Jonas Ranstam suggested additions to our new Information to authors, which now should include a recommendation to follow the CONSORT-statement ([www.consort-statement.org](http://www.consort-statement.org)) for randomized trials and submit a copy of the study protocol. Authors of systematic reviews and meta-analyses should be recommended to consult the consensus statement QUOROM and MOOSE ([www.consort-statement.org/QUOROM.pdf](http://www.consort-statement.org/QUOROM.pdf)). All data and documents should be stored and retrievable at request. Some of these data previously published in Actas general table could be stored electronically only and made easily accessible to readers. However, it is not clear who should be responsible for storage and access: The author, the authors' University or Institution, or the Journal?

We discussed electronic submission handling of manuscripts and decided to invite editors with experience to our next meeting.

## New co-editor

Terje Terjesen, Oslo, has faithfully served Acta for 14 years. He was thanked for this service at the Editors meeting March 2003. Terje Terjesen is replaced by Harald Steen, Oslo.

	Manuscripts submitted 1999-2002				Manuscripts published 1999-2002 <sup>a</sup>			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Sweden	64	58	48	41	29	31	28	19
Denmark	12	27	18	27	5	6	5	6
Norway	19	15	16	7	10	10	3	11
Finland	16	20	19	14	4	1	6	6
Iceland				1				
The Netherlands	29	26	32	23	9	7	5	14
Sum	140	146	133	113	57	55	47	56
Japan	71	69	50	47	11	10	9	7
UK	36	42	46	29	13	7	4	5
USA	15	10	15	13	8	5	5	7
Israel	10	14	12	12	5	5	2	2
Germany	19	29	43	47	9	7	5	10
India	10	7	4	7	3	1	2	1
Greece	4	9	6	8	0	0		1
Canada		4	1			0		2
Italy	18	13	10	21	2	1	3	
Australia	7	5	2	1	4	5	1	1
Austria	5	16	10	8	0	1	3	3
Spain	24	17	10	11	5	3	1	4
San Marino			1					
France	9	6	7	6		3	1	1
Belgium	3	6	3	4	4	0	1	2
Taiwan	13	20	7	10	3	2	1	2
Kuwait				1	3			
Singapore		1				0	1	
Hungary	1	1	6	4	0	0		1
Saudi Arabia	1	2	1		1	0		1
Switzerland	6	6	6	4	4		2	2
Scotland						1		
Hong Kong			1	1				1
Marocco				1				
Ireland		2	2	2		1	2	3
Tunisia			1					
Poland	1	3	2		1	0	2	1
Turkey	21		38	28	2	0	4	3
Thailand	2	2			0	0		
Croatia	1		1	2	0			
China	5				1		1	
Russia	1			1	0			
Estonia			1			1		1
Lithuania				1				
Chile				1				
Lebanon			2			0		
Argentina				4			1	
Yugoslavia	2		3		0			
Brazil	1		2	1				
S Chorea	5	13	11	20	0	3	3	3
Namibia					3			
Slovenia	2		1		0			
Czech Rep	1	1		2	0	0		
Iraq			1					
Argentina	1	2	2	4	0	1		2
Egypt				1				
	454	483	444	417	130	113	102	122

<sup>a</sup> Does not include how I do it articles, Reviews, and Editorials.