

To Serve You Better!

Dear Readers,

You may notice some changes in this issue as compared to the past. The first one is that you see this Editorial. We will maintain this format in the future and publish editorials and guest editorials. If you have a look at the table of contents you will see another significant change. From now on we will start every issue with a review and some papers reporting on randomised controlled clinical trials (RCCT), as long as we have some in the pipeline. Furthermore we will put such manuscripts (systematic reviews and RCCT) on the 'fast track', which means that they will be given priority on the way to publication, which is normally and as strictly as possible according to the acceptance date of the manuscript. Deviations from this are situations where it is not possible to fill the 86 pages precisely with the batch of papers as defined by the priority. In these cases, it may happen that a manuscript with a lower priority has the required number of pages and thus would move up in the priority list.

The last and maybe most important change is that we decided to produce the layout as soon as is feasible after manuscript acceptance, so the article will be available in PubMed quite close to the acceptance date. With this, we will make the information contained in every paper publicly available the earliest possible date. Currently, we are working through a pile of backlog manuscripts, but we are confident that this pile will be reduced to zero in a few weeks.

The true reasons for these changes lay behind the scenes. We had a fundamental change in the editorial team. Two Editors-in-Chief have decided either that it is time to leave or wished to become editors of a different journal. We want to thank both departing editors, Prof. N.P. Lang and Prof. P. Holmstrup, for their tremendous work and the effort they put into OHPD. They served as editors from the very first issue and substantially contributed to the success of OHPD. Without their expertise, OHPD would not be where it is today.

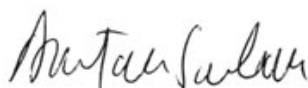
We now have a new crew running the editorial office: Prof. J.-F. Roulet continues to serve as an Editor-in-Chief, and he is joined by two new Editors-in-Chief: Prof. A. Sculean (University of Bern, Switzerland) and Prof. P. E. Petersen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark). Instead of distributing the workload by specialties, we have decided to take an interdisciplinary approach to the Editors' tasks as a team. This was facilitated with the introduction of a new, more efficient, completely redesigned version of the software we use to manage the manuscripts and the review process. We also took the opportunity to adapt the Editorial Board to the new tasks. In the future, you will see new names on the list of its members.

With these changes, we are convinced that we will be able to improve the quality of OHPD in order to serve you better and increase both the circulation and the impact factor.

Sincerely yours



Prof. J.-F. Roulet



Prof. A. Sculean



Prof. P.E. Petersen