

Editorial

The 20th anniversary of Acta Dermatovenologica Alpina, Pannonica et Adriatica: New clothes for a young lady

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Twenty years of publication is an important achievement for a small regional professional journal like Acta Dermatovenologica Alpina, Pannonica et Adriatica (Acta Dermatovenol APA). The journal was founded by Aleksej Kansky in 1992 in Ljubljana, and in the two decades since then it has experienced various ups and downs, as described in detail previously (1-4). Several important steps were taken in recent years to improve the quality and international profile of our journal. The entire content of the journal has been freely available from volume 9 onwards (since 2000) at the journal's website <http://www.acta-apa.org/>. In 2005 our journal achieved full indexing status in Index Medicus/Medline and the entire content is listed in PubMed starting with volume 14, which has greatly influenced the visibility of the journal and significantly raised its unofficial impact factor (4). In 2010 we started mandatory electronic submission and manuscript processing using an editorial manager.

As you have probably noticed, starting with the front page we have completely redesigned our journal for its twentieth anniversary. We have two part-time technical editors that will guarantee smooth and rapid processing of manuscripts and all post-acceptance procedures. We have prepared an entire set of new documents: revised and more detailed Guidelines for Authors, a Copyright Transfer/Publishing and Authorship Form, a Submission Checklist, and an Article Processing Charge Notification. All the new documents are available at <http://www.acta-apa.org/> and should be taken into account if you choose to submit a manuscript to our journal.

Acta Dermatovenol APA has been an open-access journal since 2000. To continue to provide open access and to cope with the increasing expenses of journal production, online hosting, and archiving, we were unfortunately forced to establish a new business model (like many other medical journals in recent years) in which expenses are recovered in part by charging an article processing fee to the authors or their supporting institution for each article we publish. As you may know, the open access publishing business model is a relatively new model for scholarly journal publishing that provides immediate, worldwide, barrier-free access to the full text of all published articles. We believe it

is a great system because it allows all interested readers to view, download, print, and redistribute any article without a subscription, enabling far greater distribution of an author's work than the traditional subscription-based publishing model. Thus, from January 2012 onwards publishing an article in Acta Dermatovenol APA requires article-processing charges that will be billed to the submitting author upon acceptance of the article for publication. As before, there are no submission charges, no page charges, and no color charges. Of course, you do not have to pay any charges if the article is not accepted for publication. If a manuscript is about to be accepted after peer review, the corresponding author will be notified. The corresponding author or his or her supporting institution must pay the article processing fee within 30 days of receipt of an invoice.

The journal will continue to invite the following types of submissions: original articles, short reports, review articles, case reports, and letters to the editor. However, starting in January 2012 we implemented a length restriction for some publication types as well as stricter rules for reference citations and English language standards. Please be aware that all submitted manuscripts should be checked by a native English speaker before submission.

As you may know, due to some unpleasant events in recent years (5, 6), we have a policy of zero tolerance for plagiarism (3). Thus, all manuscripts submitted are automatically checked for plagiarism using plagiarism-detection software. In a case of plagiarism, a manuscript will be rejected without any possibility of revision or resubmission.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that, despite the fact that Acta Dermatovenol APA is a small journal from the "scientific periphery," it has significantly improved its quality and international profile during the last 20 years. Both the number of submissions and the number of downloads from the journal's website have increased, and recently we have been quite proud of the progressive increase in the number of citations. We hope that these facts will be also recognized and rewarded by Thomson Scientific in the near future, and that the journal will acquire an official impact factor soon.

We are expecting and looking forward to receiving your new high-quality submissions to our journal.

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