

# **Acta Orthopaedica**

## **Editor's Report on Volume 77, 2006**

### **Production**

The 6 regular issues of volume 77 (76 2005, 75 2004) contained 989 (951, 784) printed pages with 142 (143, 123) Original articles (12 of them case reports and technical notes) 7 (6, 3) Editorials, 3 (7, 4) Reviews, 5 (10, 10) Book reviews and 3 (1, 4) Letters to the editor.

We have published 5 (2,5) Supplements (4 doctoral theses). The total number of pages printed in 2005 was 1177 (1158, 1035), regular issues 989 pages, supplements 188 (207) pages.

We now seem to be on balance; the number of printed pages and manuscripts are about the same as 2005 and the backlog of accepted but not published ms has not increased.

### **Submission of manuscripts**

647 manuscripts were submitted in 2006 (626 2005; 645 2004; 414 2003; 417 2002). Half of them were clinical, almost one third case reports (4 % accepted, 7 published 2006), and 15% experimental. The prognosis for year 2007 is 700 submitted ms. One quarter (one quarter 2005, one fifth 2004, one quarter 2003) of the manuscripts were submitted from Scandinavia and The Netherlands.

Sweden submitted 34 (53 2005, 38 2004), The Netherlands 55 (40, 45), Denmark 23 (18, 25), Finland 21 (23,19), Norway 20 (18, 18) and Iceland 0 (2, 1) ms. The absolute number of ms submitted from Scandinavia and The Netherlands has increased from 108 year 2003 to 153 year 2006. The number of submitted ms from Scandinavia and The Netherlands are about the same over the last 3 years

Most manuscripts were submitted from UK 86 (89 2005; 68 2004), The Netherlands 55 (40, 45), Japan 51 (49, 56), Germany 48 (42, 42), Turkey 38 (42, 66), Sweden 34 (53, 38)), India 24 (22, 30) and South Korea 21(27, 13). The number of ms submitted and the distribution of countries are similar over the latest 3 years.

### **Handling times and acceptance rate**

The handling times started to diminish after introducing our electronic manuscript handling system, Manuscript Manager (MM) in 2004 and they still diminish. During 2006 the mean time from submittance to the first letter from coeditor was 5 weeks. Excluding case reports the time was 8 weeks. In only 8 % of the manuscripts the time exceeded 3 months. The mean time from submission to publication was less than 1 year 2005. The mean time from acceptance to publication was 7 months 2006. We strive for a decrease of both times.

Long publication times (paper print) can be compensated for by online Preprint publication of accepted articles, being immediately free on the Web. This means that the time from acceptance to formal paper publication will not be critical. We have asked our publisher (Taylor and Francis) to arrange for this. Another option would be to publish only the abstract as Preprint; one advantage would be less risk for confusion between the Preprint article and the final article.

The acceptance rate in 2006 was 20%, the same as 2005 and 2004 but have decreased from the 30% we had 1997–2003.

### **Subscriptions**

On Dec 2006 we had 4484 subscribers (2005 4598; 2004 4830; 2003 4639; 2002 4580; 2001 4859). 3383 were collective subscribers, 1047 institutional (mainly libraries), and 54 personal (Tables 1-3). (Note that the numbers of US subscriptions has increased!).

Institutional (mainly libraries) subscriptions have de-creased by on third during 1999–2006, from 1703 to 1101 (Table 3). This is a general phenomenon - not unique for Acta - because of the stretched economy of the libraries caused by the substantial increases of the subscription prices for many journals owned by the large, for-profit, publishers (Acta is an exception being a non-profit journal owned by NOF, subscription cost for collective subscribers has been unchanged since several years and is as low as 400 NOK=50 Euro). We had expected a still larger decrease since 2005 when Acta started Open Access. However the decrease of library subscriptions during 2006 compared to 2005 is moderate.

### **Finances**

See separate report from Peter Frandsen.

We have a slight deficit for this year (about the same as for the year 2005) . This deficit is expected and is caused by the decreasing number of library subscriptions, in part caused by our Open Access.

Our costs can be reduced in many ways. Diminished need for secretary work, because of our electronic manuscript handling system, will decrease costs. Soon there will be need for only 1 secretary in half time work; before MM started we used 2 full time secretaries (one part of the secretary work has been taken over by MM, another part by the editor and coeditors).

Other possibilities to reduce costs are: print on cheaper paper (Acta on paper will certainly go on for many years. One reason is that our advertisers strongly prefer the paper version), increase collective subscriptions (400 NOK since many years), author's fee (some journals have already started regular fees).

### **eACTA/Open Access**

Full text Acta articles are from 2005 free for all on the Web at the same time as the paper publication. (Many journals have a 6–12 months delay.) They are easy accessed via PubMed where abstracts are marked with an icon “Open Access. Full content available free online” linked to an electronic library managed by our publisher. This library contains all Acta articles published since 2000.

Our Open Access has lead to a dramatic increase of the number of downloads (via PubMed) of Acta articles; during year 2006 full text of 100,400 Acta articles were downloaded! (substantially more than for any other of Taylor and Francis journals). This was exactly the goal for our Open Access: to make Acta more read which in the long run means that, together with short handling times, Acta will attract more high quality articles

We want to make old Acta articles (before 2005) available on our website as PDF files. The publisher will give us an cost estimation for this work.

## Website

Our website has got a make-up, visit it at [www.actaorthop.org](http://www.actaorthop.org). Among other things it will be used for deposition of large tables, some of which will no longer be printed but only available on the website, with reference from the printed article

## Impact factor

Acta's impact factor was 10 years ago 0.6, for 2002 it was 1.2, year 2003 it was 0.8, year 2004 1.0, and year 2005 1.2 (JBJS Am 2.3, JBJS Br 1.6, CORR 1.5).

## Manuscript Manager

Our electronic manuscript system (Manuscript Manager, MM) for electronic handling of manuscripts, including the review process, started Feb 2004 and now functions well after several modifications to adjust it to Acta's way of production. Also authors are satisfied; online submission with MM is considerably easier than with most other systems used by other journals.

## Editors' meetings

The Editors have, as usual, had 2 meetings: in Noordwijk, March and in Chauvigny, October.

At the Noordwijk meeting Yrjö Kontinen was bid welcome as new coeditor in Acta. Some policy questions were discussed; we agreed that data in many manuscripts on health economy were strongly dependent on local circumstances and therefore difficult to generalize. Language translations of score systems should not be published in Acta but in national journals. We discussed whether ms with coauthors employed in industry are acceptable, no decision was taken. H Steen informed about the Sudbo affair in Norway. Notably, despite one referee had strongly advised against publication, it was published as a "fast track" article because of the interesting findings!. J Ranstam lectured about the role of biostatistics in the prevention, detection and treatment of fraud in clinical trials (Buyse et al. Stat Med 1999; 18: 1345-51).

At the Chauvigny meeting we discussed the requirements by many journals that clinical trials should be registered. The largest register is [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov). This issue has also recently been discussed in European Science Editing 2006; 32: 66-7. No firm policy for Acta was decided; probably this will not become a problem, more and more authors register their studies. J Ranstam lectured about statistical guide-lines for clinical trials.

AR presented 20 pairs of Acta articles from 2002-04, many of them with strikingly different citation numbers, and asked coeditors to single out the most cited article in each pair. Most coeditors had no more than 10 correct answers! H Steen reported over the (surprisingly?) large number of orthopedic journals started the latest 10 years, many of them already extinct!

## The Future

The Open Access movement will go on. An increasing number of the large international grant givers now require funded authors to publish their research results in Open Access journals or, in other ways, make publications immediately free on the Web. These grant givers also state that part of the grants perfectly well could be used to cover publication costs when journals change from being reader paid to being author paid, an evolution foreseen by many and also planned for by Acta. Already today some journals, owned by commercial publishers

and not free on the Web, offer authors to have their specific article laid free on the Web for a cost around 1000–1500 USD! Obviously some authors are already prepared to pay for Open Access publication.

Another Scandinavian journal, Acta Dermatologica-Venerologica, introduced in 2006 page-charges and special fees for Open Access publication and Acta will follow this experiment with interest.

Table 1 Collective subscriptions

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Norway	447	432	421	393	420
Finland	505	495	489	405	390
Denmark	684	706	687	656	640
Sweden	1 196	1 171	1 180	1 245	1 160
Iceland	32	34	18	27	20
The Netherlands	519	478	469	489	435
Total	3 383	3 316	3 279	3 164	3 065

Table 2. Distribution of Acta in the top 15 (more than 20 subscriptions) foreign countries (mainly institutional subscriptions)

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
USA	282	240	328	341	396
Japan	214	212	258	255	302
UK	65	82	84	96	155
Spain	57	81	69	61	64
Germany	41	62	50	54	57
South Korea	38	56	39	33	37
Italy	40	48	45	35	50
France	26	34	26	30	39
Australia	15	26	22	23	21
Taiwan	20	26	22	12	10
Switzerland	18	25	22	29	27
India	14	24	18	–	–
Belgium	8	21	20	12	4
Canada	18	21	20	19	20
China	19				

Table 3 Institutional and individual subscriptions

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Institutional	1047	1154	1237	1325	1433	1516	1616
Individual	54	85	69	150	82	80	64

Anders Rydholm

Lund 2007-06-04

	Manuscripts Submitted						Manuscripts Published					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Sweden	48	41	37	38	53	34	19	22	28	31	30	43
Denmark	18	27	20	25	18	23	6	13	14	6	9	11
Norway	16	7	7	18	18	20	11	8	4	10	11	11
Finland	19	14	13	19	23	21	6	9	5	1	9	8
Iceland		1	0	1	2	0		0	1		1	0
The Netherlands	32	23	26	45	40	55	14	10	6	7	18	11
<b>Sum</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>84</b>
Argentina	2	4	2		2	1	3	2	2	2	2	
Australia	2	1	1	5	3	8	1	2		5	4	2
Austria	10	8	7	13	10	9	3	2	3	1	1	3
Belgium	3	4	12	10	6	11	2	2	3	0		
Brasilia	2	1		1	1	1		0				
Bulgaria			1					0				
Canada	1		4	4	5	4	2	0	3	0	2	1
Columbia						1						
China			5	12	3	8		1				1
Croatia	1	2	1					0				
Czech Rep		2	1	3		1		0		0		
France	7	6	7	9	6	8	1	2	2	3	1	1
Germany	43	47	41	42	42	48	10	13	11	7	7	13
Greece	6	8	10	16	16	12	1	1	2	0	1	1
Hong Kong	1	1	2				1	0			2	
Hungary	6	4	2	3	3	4	1	1		0		
India	4	7	6	26	19	24	1	0		1		1
Iran			1	6	8	1		0				
Ireland	2	2	3	5	3	5	3	0	1	1	1	1
Lithuania												1
Israel	12	12	7	13	8	6	2	1	3	5	1	1
Italy	10	21	9	17	19	24		5	2	1	1	2
Japan	50	47	65	56	49	51	7	12	7	10	8	4
Kuwait		1						0				
Marocco		1				7		0				
Malaysia						2						
Nepal						2						
New Zealand			1	1		2		0				1
Oman						1						
Pakistan						2						
Portugal						3						
Poland	2		8	5	4	10	1	0	2	0		
Philippines						1						
S Korea	11	20	14	13	27	21	3	0	2	3	5	4
San Marino	1							0				
Saudi Arabia	1		2	1	2		1	0		0		
Serbia and Montenegro						1						
Scotland			1					1		1		1
Slovenia						3						
Singapore			1			1		0		0		
Spain	10	11	9	28	21	23	4	1	1	3	2	2
Switzerland	6	4	6	14	17	6	2	0	2		4	3
Taiwan	7	10	12	16	22	29	2	0	1	2	3	3
Thailand				1	1	1		0		0		
Turkey	38	28	36	66	42	38	3	4	3	0	3	
United Arab Emirates						1						
UK	46	29	27	68	89	86	5	6	14	7	10	5
USA	15	13	5	18	26	21	7	6	3	5	6	8
Yugoslavia	3							0				
Others				14	21	4						
<b>Sum</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>143</b>