

EDITORIAL

ON THE REVIVAL OF AN OLD AND VENERABLE JOURNAL

There are not many medical journals that can compete with the proceedings of Upsala Medical Society in terms of age. For more than 135 years, papers covering many aspects of medical research have been printed for the continuous update of our members and other readers regarding research carried out both in Uppsala and elsewhere. Many of these papers have been much appreciated and some of them even widely quoted. Worthy of mentioning on this occasion are Ivar Sandström's discovery of the parathyroid glands, Gunnar Blix's and Ivar Werner's description of sialic acid and Lars Grimelius' methodology paper on the use of silver staining techniques. Despite an enormous growth over the last decades in the amount of published scientific papers, the increased interest in publication of original papers in more focussed journals, often with higher impact factors, has led to a decreased rate of submissions to our own journal. Therefore, at the entrance of the new century the board of the Upsala Medical Society had to decide on a very pertinent question – should the journal be kept alive or should we let it die? The answer was an unanimous yes in favour of the survival option but a substantial renewal of its format and content had to be exercised. Anyhow, it is not free of charge to run a business of this kind, despite the fact that the journal has grown thinner over the last couple of years.

It was soon realized that the most relevant move to take should be to have the journal published also by electronical means. And we are glad to announce that with the release of this issue the content of the journal will from now also be found on our web address; www.ujms.se. By such means we are convinced that the messages of the published papers will be even further spread.

A second issue identified was that of extending and improving the content of the journal. The Society found it most appropriate and logical in this context to extend further the collaborations with our Medical Faculty. Indeed, most of the science reported at our meetings and in the published papers has been carried out within the framework of the Faculty. Over the last years this has also been illustrated by the common production of the Rudbeck memorial lecture. In fact, this collaboration was illustrated by the appearance of the first article of this millenium's first issue written by last year's Rudbeck award winner, Professor Lars Terenius. In the future, the winner of the local Fernström award, nominated by the Medical Faculty, will also be asked to publish a review of his/her most relevant research. It is also our hope that some of the new honorary doctors of the faculty will be willing to submit

contributions to our journal. Likewise, we will encourage our awardee of the Hwasser prize for the best doctoral thesis of the year to present reviews of their work.

Perhaps the most important move now taken is that of introducing a new series of special issues, in which our faculty presents profile areas of research. The idea here is to improve the information on what is going on in our Faculty, thus making it easier to establish new contacts for the creation of fruitful collaborations within our Faculty and hopefully also with other partners. Such special issues will be edited by guest editors appointed by the Faculty. It is our hope that one such issue will be published each year. Next year, the topic will be about cancer research in Uppsala.

Although these new attractions of the journal are all based on invited contributions it is still the intention of the editorial board that a substantial part of the journal also in the future will be composed of original papers, which are going through traditional peer review. In order to further reinforce this activity so essential and significant for our journal, we want to point out that there is still an annual prize of SEK 25.000:– for the best submitted and published paper. So, the final messages of these introductory remarks are as follows; investigate, write and publish (why not in UJMS?) – we don't intend to perish.

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