

Editorial

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Acta Neurologica Belgica (ANB) is an international peer-reviewed neurological journal from Belgium. It is one of the oldest neurological publications in Europe and has a prestigious past. Presently, it publishes between 35 and 50 articles in 4 issues per year. ANB has an official circulation of 500 copies and an impact factor (a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in the journal has been cited in a particular year) that has varied between 0.4 and 0.7 between 2002 and 2005 (ISI Web of Knowledge, 2005). It truly is an international journal regularly publishing manuscripts from more than 10 different countries.

However, in the light of increasing competition between international peer-reviewed journals and the advent of many new neurological journals that each try to fill gaps in the existing literature, the rationale for and the future of a national neurological journal from a small country can be questioned. As a reflection of these changes in the past few years, different national neurological journals of neighbouring countries have lost their international status and impact factors. In recent discussions within the Board of the Belgian Neurological Society and the Editorial Board of ANB, the option taken was to maintain ANB as an international sounding board of neurological research and practice in Belgium.

In the coming months, the format of the journal will be altered as to make it more appealing while preserving high standards of content. The cover and the lay-out will become more attractive. The access to the submission system will gradually become fully electronic. Time from first submission to publication will be reduced to less than 12 weeks. Manuscripts that will be considered eligible for publication in the future are in the following categories :

- "Editorials" are on invitation only but your suggestions on new topics are welcome
- "Guidelines – consensus papers" are welcome provided they have the format of a systematic

review and follow the rules of evidence-based medicine.

- "Review articles"; unsolicited reviews are welcome along with invited reviews.
- "Original articles", submissions are welcome anytime, relevant to both clinical and experimental research.
- "Case reports" are welcome provided they are truly exceptional and/or innovative.
- "Doctoral thesis" is a section reserved to researchers who have recently defended their Ph.D. thesis and present a summary of their doctoral work and a short curriculum vitae.
- "Neurological image" represents a new item in the journal showing a remarkable or new case illustrated with a particular imaging modality.
- "Letters to the editor" concerning matters arising in recently published articles are welcome anytime.
- "Society proceedings" contain abstracts of scientific meetings of the Belgian Neurological Society and the other participating Belgian scientific societies.

On behalf S. Belachew, and V. Thijs, co-editors and R. Raedt, editorial assistant, I would like to actively solicitate the support and the participation of our readership to provide content for future editions of Acta Neurologica Belgica. As pointed out in the paragraph above, different formats of content are welcome. In particular, original clinical research work, neurological imaging cases and truly innovative case reports are of particular interest. I express my appreciation for any efforts to keep Acta Neurologica Belgica in good shape by providing quality content and I welcome any suggestions to improve our national journal.

REFERENCES

ISI Web of Knowledge, JCR Science Edition 2005.