



Editorial

Dear colleagues,

This is the start of a new era in the long history of the *Acta Neurologica Belgica* (ANB) for several reasons. Paul Boon has become President-elect of the Belgian Neurological Society and has resigned from his position as editor-in-chief. He has done an excellent job creating new sections, increasing the number of manuscript submissions and the impact factor of the journal, as well as maintaining a positive financial balance. Taking over editorship after him is a challenge we have accepted because we believe that the future of the journal is bright and that there still is room for improvement of its quality and impact.

The changes in editorial policy we propose for the ANB are inspired by its mission and by the evolution of modern scientific journals. ANB is a peer-reviewed journal which disseminates original scientific data provided by an international authorship, but also clinical material supposed to be useful for everyday clinical practice to its subscribers most of whom are practicing neurologists. ANB cannot compete with the major neuroscience journals, but offers to Belgian and non-Belgian neuroscientists a first, or second, chance to publish their studies and observations in a well known journal. To optimise this double mission we have implemented the following modifications.

To increase interest and participation, we have invited several societies to select ANB as their official journal. Three new partners can be welcomed, among which the Belgian Society of Neuroscience, so that the consortium now adds up to 10 societies. Each of them has designated a representative who will be part of the Editorial Board and contribute to the journal's content. As a consequence, the National Advisory Board has been reorganised. Its members were invited on the basis of their expertise and previous active involvement with the BNS and ANB, but also with the intention to cover the major areas of interest and the principal Belgian academic cen-

tres. The National Advisory Board replaces therefore the previous "academic board" and we sincerely thank the members of the latter for their longstanding support to the ANB. As ANB receives a steadily increasing number of international contributions, it seemed timely to set up an International Advisory Board. We were very fortunate to receive acceptance from 12 non-Belgian well known opinion leaders from Europe and the USA, who had previously participated in scientific meetings of the BNS and became foreign honorary members of the society. The members of these advisory boards have agreed to participate in the peer-reviewing process and to provide occasional review papers in their respective domain of expertise.

As further means to improve the content of the journal in addition to the already existing sections "expert reviews", "original articles", case reports", "neuro-images" and "letters", we intend to create a new section called "evidence- and experience-based neurology". The latter will consist of invited critical analyses of published randomised controlled trials taking into account the classical criteria of evidence-based medicine, but enlightened by the personal opinion of the author on clinical significance. A last novel section has been opened to announcements for academic and professional positions, grants, opportunities or activities. Finally, in order to attract more and better contributions, including summaries of doctoral theses from our young colleagues, the Belgian Neurological Society has accepted to reward with a yearly prize of 2000€ the best original publication within a volume of the ANB.

Another major step forward for the ANB will be achieved within the next months. We will become a true "e-journal" with a web-based submission and tracking system provided by our printer Universa. At the same time, unrestricted free access will be provided to ANB articles and free full texts should be available via PubMed. This will undoubtedly increase visibility and interest in the journal, and hopefully citation.

Besides the abovementioned changes in editorial policy and structure, the “old lady” will undergo an esthetical “lifting”. Its format will now be that of all major international basic and clinical neuroscience journals and its cover page has been redesigned in order to provide a clear table of content and visibility to the partner societies.

We hope that these changes will please you and that you will continue to read, cite and nurture the *Acta Neurologica Belgica* in the future.

Jean Schoenen
Editor-in-Chief

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Co-Editor