

EDITORIAL

The 50-year anniversary of Acta Oncologica

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Everyone who has looked at the front page of an issue of Acta Oncologica during 2013 must have recognized that the journal celebrated its 50-year anniversary. If you studied the contents of the eight issues, you may also have noted the presence of an Acta Oncologica jubilee article in each of them. The topics of the eight articles reflect the diversity of articles published in a general oncology journal like Acta Oncologica [1–8]. Four of the articles dealt with various aspects of radiation therapy, viz. diagnostics, therapy planning, biological modeling and late consequences and two dealt with the use of palliative chemotherapy, one in castration resistant prostate cancer patients and one about its use, or misuse, near the end of life. The remaining two articles dealt with aspects of cancer survival, or supportive care and cancer rehabilitation. The format of the eight articles also reflects the diversity, four were original articles, two systematic reviews, one an overview and one described national guidelines (about target delineation in breast cancer) [4].

In a series of very successful symposia about aspects of modern radiation therapy, a conference in June about biology-guided adapted radiotherapy, BiGART was not only the 11th Acta Oncologica Symposium but also selected as the Jubilee Symposium [9].

The editors of Acta Oncologica organized, as outlined in an editorial in the first issue of 2013 [10], a young investigator/scientist workshop, a new and exiting experience with a kick-off during two days in September in Copenhagen. The meeting hosted about 27 young researchers, who listened to a few lectures about how to write scientific papers but

above all discussed in small groups about a specific hot and controversial topic with the aim to write a systematic review to be published in Acta Oncologica. The work is supervised by an experienced scientist, partly from the editorial board. You can expect to read the articles, first online from early 2014 and then in an issue during the latter half of 2014.

I have during the past two years informed you several times about the growing interest for Acta Oncologica, not the least manifested as a continuously increasing number of submitted manuscripts. For 2013, the expected number will possibly exceed 1000 (from about 200 some years ago). Even if rejection rate of submitted articles has increased markedly, now over 80%, there is a wish to publish as many as possible of the high-quality papers. With a planned number of pages of 128 per issue, space has been clearly insufficient with a result that each issue during 2013 contained more pages than negotiated. Actually, an all time high number of 1790 pages have been published, of great benefit for subscribers who get more value for the subscription fee and for all other readers of Acta Oncologica. This is in the long run not a good strategy. After negotiations with the publisher, the number of issues will be increased to 10 from 2014. At the same time, the layout of the Contents page and the Abstract will be modified, hopefully improving readability.

The most pronounced change with the journal from 2013 is that it will be available only online. All subscribers may, at the end of the year, for free obtain a printed collected volume of the journal to be read in the old fashioned way and put on a book shelf. This may be a dramatic change to many of the

subscribers or to those going to the hospital or department library, reading the articles in a printed copy. Being the editor-in-chief of *Acta Oncologica*, I may not call myself a typical reader of the journal. I am, however, a typical subscriber of five other medicine and oncology journals, receiving the printed copy by regular mail. I study the contents, if not already done on the Internet, and may read (parts of) one or a few articles of interest if time then allows. I may bring the copy with me to read the article(s), e.g. on the train or bus, or at home. However, in the far majority of articles that I am interested in, I find the article on the journal's homepage and read it on the computer, even if I have the printed copy on the shelf behind my back. Not having a paper copy to read, for me, and for many others, will not in any way negatively influence routines although I understand that it may for some. I regret this, but I also hope that our decision will be understood.

Acta Oncologica is an independent non-profit international scientific periodical with its base in the Nordic countries. We will use this independence in the best possible way to continue to distribute good science. Our efforts to every year support one or two scientific symposia, organized in one of the Nordic countries, will continue. During 2014, two planned symposia will receive support, one about imaging and radiophysics in Turku, Finland and the other about cancer survival in Copenhagen [the 3rd European Cancer Rehabilitation & Survivorship Symposium (ECRS)]. The 2nd ECRS was held in September 2012 and published in Issue 2, 2013 [11]. *Acta Oncologica* Symposia for 2015 and on are already scheduled. It is our belief that continued support in this way is a good way of using available resources.

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