

News March 2015

We have pleasure in announcing the appointment of two new associate editors from the beginning of this year, Jan Bouchal and Jan Václavík. We believe this will improve the whole review and selection procedure with benefits to us all.

Second, we come to a few thoughts on *Biomedical Papers* itself, including reflections on some of the milestones in its history. From the mid-1950s, the journal published research articles in all areas of medicine. The first Editor, Professor František Šantavý, was a medical doctor whose lifelong passion was research into natural substances. Under his editorship, the journal was run as a collection, *Acta Universitatis Palackianae Olomucensis Facultatis Medicae*. Reviews and original papers, were published in English, French, German and Russian. Articles on chemical and biochemical subjects were abstracted in *Chemical Abstracts*, and cited in chemistry journals. Since 1983, manuscripts accepted have been mainly in preclinical and clinical research and, exclusively in English. In proceedings (Vol. 145, 2001), the name was changed to *Biomedical Papers* and from Volume 147 (2003) the journal has been a periodical. The original collection of works of the Medical Faculty of Palacky University was transformed in a few years into an international peer-reviewed Open Access journal, including four regular issues and topical supplements. At present, it provides an interdisciplinary forum for researchers to exchange their latest results in laboratory medicine, the pharmacological action of drugs and/or natural products and clinical research. A measure of the success of a journal, aside from the quality of published results, remains the Impact Factor (IF). Although this is an unsuitable tool (DORA, San Francisco

Declaration on Research Assessment), it continues to be used, as better alternatives are lacking. *Biomedical Papers* gained its first IF in 2010 and the last, for 2013, was 1.661. A journal can also be characterized by a number of other indicators. If this journal is evaluated by the number of articles published for the years 2012 to 2014 (Vols. 156, 157 and 158), in 2012 we published 11 reviews and 46 original scientific articles. In the following year 2013 9/48 and in 2014 22/82. Manuscripts were peer-reviewed by 152 international and national reviewers. The authors were from 22 countries but the majority were from the Czech Republic. In order of frequency, this was Charles University in Prague (60 articles), Palacky University in Olomouc (58 articles) and Masaryk University in Brno (40 articles). Of a total of 218 articles in the reviewed period, the 15 most-cited articles in the SCI according to SCOPUS, scored between 5 and 20. There is no correlation between the number of articles by a single author and SCI. In other words, the journal still lacks a backbone of scientific contributors and research teams with priority findings to communicate.

Biomedical Papers follows a low cost model sponsored by Palacky University and managed by academics concerned with science and not profit. So while we can be proud of the milestones that have been accomplished, at this time, we receive a superfluity of submissions that, with a few exceptions are not acceptable for peer review. It is now a priority to improve the quality of the journal. We invite interested authors to consider submitting to *Biomedical Papers* in order for the journal to make an impact in medicine.

Jitka Ulrichova and Vilim Šimanek (Editors)