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Editor-in-Chief's report 2016

During 2016, there were changes with the leadership of the journal. The former Editor-in-Chief Peter Vedstedt and his assistant Dorthe Toftdahl Nielsen moved on with their careers and Helena Liira and Mark Phillips from Finland took over in March. Peter and Dorthe need to be thanked for their invaluable work with the journal and for a smooth transition.

The new E-i-C started by having Skype meetings with the editors discussing what goes well with journal and what needs to be improved. Clearly, there is a lot of motivation and inspiration in the editorial team. The editors want to promote general practice research by the means of a scientific Nordic journal.

Editorial team

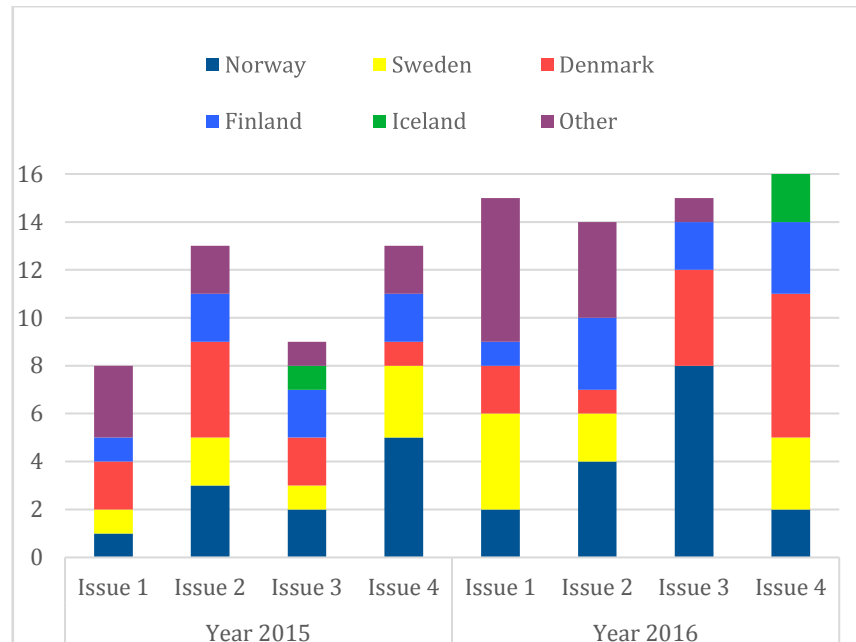
The editorial team met three times: in April in Copenhagen, in June at Wonca Copenhagen and National editors also had a Skype meeting in October 2016. There were changes in the editorial team: Tuomas Koskela started as the new National editor in Finland. In Denmark, John Brodersen quit as Assistant editor and was replaced by Anne Møller. Otherwise the same editors continued, please see the table on the bottom of the page. The position of Assistant editor in Iceland is vacant.

The team agreed the goal was to try and shorten the delays with the papers and publish more papers in 2016. The editors succeeded in reaching these goals and 60 papers were published (which is the maximum number included in the current publisher fee in the contract). The waiting times shortened and papers got into print quicker than before because of the increased number of papers in each issue.

Denmark	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Sweden
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Figure 1 presents the published papers per country and per issue. In 2016, the largest number of papers was 16 from Norway and there were less papers from Sweden than usually. However, a lot of Swedish papers are waiting in the pipeline. There was an editorial and a paper from Iceland in the last issue of 2016 and a rather steady flow of papers from both Denmark and Finland. Most of the papers from other countries are from the Netherlands: 8 papers in 2016.

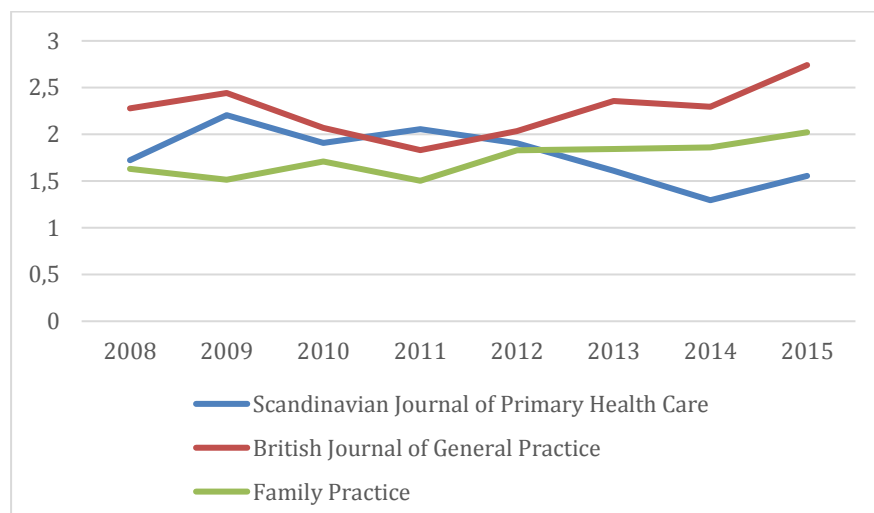
Figure 1. Papers in the SJPHC in 2015 – 2016 per country and per issue



Journal impact factor (JIF)

The aim of SJPHC is to be among the best journals in general practice. The most important competitors are British Journal of General Practice and Family Medicine. The 2015 impact factor was 1.556, up from the bottom of previous year 1.295. The current competitive situation with the SJPHC impact factor is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2. SJPHC impact factor 2008 – 2015



The editors are aware of the issue with the impact factor. Although not the sole aim of the journal, it is a matter of importance and needs to be looked after. The means to improve the JIF include guaranteeing the papers previously published in the SJPHC are cited and discussed in the new publications, keeping the waiting times short to attract the best papers and overall boosting the quality and reputation of the journal. More marketing needs to be done, by the journal itself and by the publisher. One attempt in 2016 was opening a Facebook page for the journal where summaries of three papers per issue are posted.

Contract with the publisher

SJPHC has a contract with Taylor & Francis until the end of 2017. The cooperation with the publisher has functioned smoothly. Discussions have started for the renewal of the contract and comparative offers from other publishing houses will be invited.

In the beginning of 2017, the SJPHC started using the Editorial Manager (EM), the editorial system recommended by the publisher. There are two main reasons for this. Using the separate system, Manuscript Manager, meant the papers had to be transferred in Word format to the publisher which caused a lot of manual work. Second, EM is a highly developed program that has a number assets, including better developed systems for recruiting reviewers, which remains the key issue in the editorial work.

Finances

It was decided in 2016 in the NFGP meeting that the publication fees will be augmented in 2017. The fees are in fact open access fees and they were on a lower level than those in the competitive journals. The publication fee for non-members increase from 1200 euros to 1500 euros and that of members from 400 euros to 500 euros. This, along with the increased number of papers will make the journal more independent financially.

The editors and reviewers do a lot of unpaid work for the journal. We need to discuss and find incentives for the reviewers of Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care. The increased number of papers has meant more work for the editors during 2016. With the higher fees and better economy of the journal, one way to motivate the editors might be a contribution to general practice congress fees for the editors. This would also give them an opportunity to meet future authors and invite papers.

Finally, my warmest thanks to the excellent group of editors and the team at NFGP. It is a pleasure working with all of them.

Helsinki March 2017

Helena Liira
Editor-in-Chief