EDITORIAL

EJVES — a Look Ahead

The whole editorial staff of the European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery (EJVES)\(^1\) wishes you a Happy New Year 2022! For the third time in a row, we live through a turn of the year that is dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic; indeed, the pre-COVID era already seems hard to remember. We have all had to find our individual ways through this global challenge, and we do hope you succeeded in establishing a new and healthy balance for yourself, your family, and friends and but also for the management of your patients\(^2,3\) and your research.\(^4\)

The continued extraordinary global situation also makes the pandemic the formative context of the present EJVES leadership cycle.\(^5,6\) This issue marks the beginning of the third and final year of the present term. To look ahead, we have great pleasure announcing that Mr. Jonathan Boyle from Cambridge has been elected as the next Senior Editor by the EJVES Editorial Board. As Section Editor for Aortic Disease, Jon knows the Journal inside out and is perfectly placed to help lead it to new heights.\(^6,7\) He will take office from October 2022 in support of Martin Björck, the next Editor in Chief from January 2023.

The crucial steps of introducing (a) topical sections, (b) consistent presentation of contents and professional workflows, including a four eye principle in decision making and (c) systematic statistical appraisal\(^1\) were the basis for the current development. The EJVES editors have now broadened their activities towards new, inclusive, and highly successful publication formats (eg. Research letters)\(^1\) and interactive platforms (eg. EJVES Vascular Forum)\(^8\) and have boosted their social media activities again.\(^7\)

These conjoint activities resulted in a stunning increase of the Journals 2020 impact factor to 7.069, representing an all time high.\(^7\) This success is completely owing to our fantastic editorial staff\(^1\) and our excellent group of external expert reviewers. In 2021, 414 reviewers performed an impressive 2683 expert reviews for the EJVES.\(^10\) Their enormous contribution cannot be thanked enough, as it is purely driven by enthusiasm and interest, even under the worst of circumstances as during the past two years.

In 2022, we will build further on our established base to continue improving our services. We will introduce a new role amongst our staff for ambitious young talents: Assistant Editors. They are expected to support the editorial process of the Journal and to engage in a research project about scientific publishing. During their two year term they will have an unique insight into a leading surgical Journal and may establish a powerful network within the global vascular community. The first Assistant Editor has just been elected, and we are proud to welcome Carlota F. Prendes from Munich to our team!

In addition, we are experimenting with a new ‘hybrid’ publication vehicle, the electronic pdf based flip book. This format reads well on mobile devices, as well as on laptops and iPads, and aims to prepare for a paper free future,\(^7\) without losing the advantages of composed issues with topical associations. It even has obvious advantages over the paper journal; it is easier to navigate both from the Table of Contents to the individual articles, and within them. This option is already available since the October 2021 issue for all who subscribe through a European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS) membership individually or through linked national society memberships. We hope for positive feedback on this exciting new publication format.

Last but not least, we will also improve our service to authors by reducing their time to publication significantly through online publication of uncorrected proofs of accepted papers.\(^1\) All these measures will set the stage for the next editorial leadership cycle which will start in 2023 with all the characteristic challenges of defending a leading position. As before, the EJVES will strive for the next level by preserving its high scientific and ethical standards whilst developing and pursuing innovative ideas.

Two associate editors have ended their terms in December 2021, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them and acknowledge their great contributions to the Journal. Marianne De Maeseneer (who joined in September 2013) has been responsible, together with Stavros Kakkos, for the venous papers. They have not only developed the ‘Blue Department’ in general, but also launched a series of key practice guidelines in that field.\(^11,12\)

The first ever ESVS Guidelines on Management of Venous Thrombosis\(^11\) were published in 2021, and the next (February) issue will publish the updated ESVS 2022 Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Chronic Venous Disease of the Lower Limbs.\(^12\) There has been so much progress, in particular regarding endovenous therapy options, so the updated guidelines are long awaited and appear timely for the ESVS venous Masterclass in January 2022.

Eric Verhoeven (who joined in September 2015) has been the journal’s well known face of complex endovascular therapies for many years. Attracting and handling research from this dynamic and innovative field is a difficult task. Validity of available evidence is often challenging and at times outdated soon after publication, but there are also

---

\(^{1078-5884/© 2022 Published by Elsevier B.V. on behalf of European Society for Vascular Surgery.}\)

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejvs.2022.01.001
ethical and commercial aspects that can turn this area into a minefield. Eric has handled the papers with great care and dedication and built up the journal’s reputation for this crucial field.

We thank both Marianne and Eric for their enormous contributions and support; their absence will be greatly felt. Fortunately, however, we will soon be able to announce their replacements.

All the editorial staff and our rejuvenated editorial board (please see this issue’s editorial staff page) will give their best in 2022 to keep serving the needs of our authors, readers and reviewers and to provide the best research and clinical guidance in vascular care. Happy New Year!

REFERENCES


Florian Dick, Editor in Chief
Department of Vascular Surgery, Kantonsspital St. Gallen, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

Martin Björck, Senior Editor
Department of Surgical Sciences, Section of Vascular Surgery, Uppsala University, Sweden
Tartu University, Estonia