

Announcements from the Editorial Board of the Netherlands Journal of Medicine

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Editor-in-Chief, on behalf of the Editors

The editorial staff of the Netherlands Journal of Medicine, residing in Nijmegen for the last five years, has moved the Journal into the electronic era with the expectation that this would improve its accessibility and quality. From the summer of 2006 onwards, all full text articles published in the Journal have become freely accessible online.¹ As a consequence, accessing and downloading articles from the Journal via PubMed is easy and convenient and the number of hits easily exceeds 3000 every month.² In addition, we implemented an online submission and reviewing system in February of 2006, which not only enhanced the efficiency of the editorial workflow, but also attracted more articles, especially from abroad. This forced the editorial board to become much more selective in accepting papers, leading to a rejection rate of nearly 40% of submitted papers in 2006. More efficient handling of submissions last year shortened the time from submission to the final decision from an average of 98 days to less than 60 days in nearly 90% of the submissions (*figure 1*).³ The number and categories of articles submitted to the Journal in 2006 are listed in *table 1*. In order to further decrease the circulation time of submissions, we need the help of our readers in reviewing

Table 1. *Submissions to the Netherlands Journal of Medicine in 2006*

Manuscript type	N	%
Case reports	94	40.9
Original articles	58	25.2
Reviews	28	12.2
Photo quizzes	28	12.2
Letters	9	3.9
Special reports	6	2.6
Editorials	5	2.2
Notes	2	0.9
	230	100

submitted papers at short notice. Therefore, we invite (especially young) colleagues to apply as potential reviewers to achieve this goal. Those interested can contact the editorial office at g.derksen@aig.umcn.nl

In this new year, a couple of changes will take place.⁴ First of all, Professor Paul Smits has resigned as Associate Editor of the Journal because of time constraints due to increasing managerial obligations since he recently became Chairman of the Division of Biomedical and Evaluative Sciences and Primary Care. The editorial staff is grateful for his valuable contribution to the editorial work in the last five years. We are pleased that we found Professor Jack Wetzels (*figure 2*) willing to join the editorial staff. Jack Wetzels (1954) is

Figure 1. *Time from submission to decision*

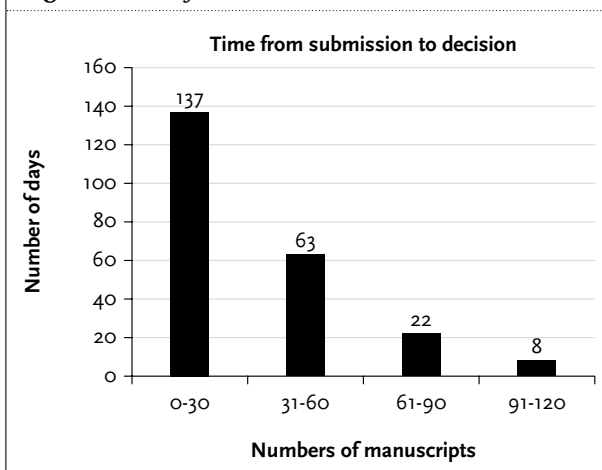


Figure 2. *New Associate Editor Professor Jack Wetzels*



Professor of Nephrology at the Department of Nephrology of the Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen.

Secondly, after five years of art on the front cover, the artists have decided to stop their contribution to the Journal. Although we regret this enormously, we respect their decision. An exhibition of the art covers of the last two years is planned at our University later this year. We will replace the art covers by illustrations selected from photo quiz submissions starting in May of this year. Of interest, the Journal is moving into its 50th year of publication! We would therefore like to pay attention to the history of the Journal and we have approached former Editors to write about their experiences with the Journal and these contributions will be published in the course of the year 2008.

With the help of our readers, the editors will continue to try to improve the quality of the Journal and finally break the Impact Factor barrier of 1, which is coming closer. This is the goal that we have set as editors for this year. We wish you a very healthy and productive new year!

REFERENCES

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