Netherlands Heart Journal: 10 Steps in 10 Years!

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On 1 April 2011 we celebrate the 10-year existence of the Netherlands Heart Journal (NHJ). In these 10 years, NHJ has undergone substantial changes. Since its birth in 2001, we have focused on achieving international recognition for NHJ. For memories sake, I would like to cite from the very first article in April 2001: *Our primary goal is not to compete with major international cardiology journals that are impact factor driven, but indexing per se and the subsequent citation on PubMed (or similar institutions) is a major aim to strive for at the moment* [1].

What has happened since then? In total, 10 major steps have been taken in 10 years:

- 1 At the end of the 2004, NHJ changed publisher: Bohn, Stafleu van Loghum (BSL, today a division of Springer Verlag) took over from Mediselect BV;
- 2 In 2005, NHJ was accepted in EMBASE;
- 3 In 2006, NHJ became listed in PubMed Central;
- 4 In January 2007, NHJ became listed in PubMed;
- 5 Also in 2007, NHJ was included in the Library Digital Archives;
- 6 In March 2008, NHJ became indexed in the Web of Science (WOS);
- 7 In 2009, NHJ introduced the Editorial Management System (EMS);
- 8 In January 2010, NHJ introduced E-learning articles through our National Institute for Continuing Cardiovascular Education (CVOI);
- 9 In June 2010, NHJ received an impact factor (1.4!);
- 10 In 2011, NHJ will be published online first before appearing in the print journal [2–7].

These 10 steps can be seen as major advances for the international acknowledgement of the NHJ, testifying its increasing professional status. They lend esteem and prestige to a journal that started as a national Dutch journal in 1987 (*Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Cardiologie*). The PubMed Central database includes all NHJ articles published since the foundation of NHJ in April 2001. All these articles are available in PubMed Central: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/384/>. Listing of NHJ articles in PubMed (www.pubmed.gov) started in January 2007 (396 articles in PubMed, December 2010). Inclusion by the Web of Science (WOS) started in March 2008 and counts a total of 477 articles (December 2010).

Of course, the most crucial and rewarding step for NHJ was the attainment of an impact factor (1.4) in 2010. Impact factors of journals are calculated each year by Thomson Scientific (ISI) and reported in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR). In June 2011, the new impact factor of NHJ will become available.

The impressive advances over the past 10 years are due to the achievements of many individuals. In the first place, the Chief Editors would like to thank the Board of the Netherlands Society of Cardiology (NVVC) and NHJ publisher BSL for continuously supporting our journal. In particular, we express our gratitude to Mrs. Lieda Meester (Editorial Manager BSL) as the central coordinator of NHJ during all those years. We are indebted to our Editorial Board member Tobias Opthof for acting as Impact Factor ‘watchdog’ for NHJ and for producing valuable bibliometric data on the key academic players in clinical cardiology (see next issue) [8, 9]. Along those lines, we would like to thank Jan W. Schoones (Collection Development Coordinator / Information Specialist, Walaeus Library, LUMC, Leiden) for carefully monitoring NHJ and providing useful journal-metrics analyses [10].

Lastly, we thank all authors for their excellent contributions to our journal. We would like to maintain or even

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improve our impact factor and we expect to receive many more fine articles that deserve to be cited. It is our hope that NHJ will receive increasing recognition over the next 10 years.

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