K. Skou Andersen

Editorial

Accepted: 30 January 2001
© Springer-Verlag

International Orthopaedics 25 years

It is no age that *International Orthopaedics* has reached. There are a number of orthopaedic journals that are more mature. However, much has changed since SICOT first gave birth to its prestigious journal. We do not know what was behind the original idea to start a new journal but obviously one of the key words has been *international*.

SICOT is the only truly international orthopaedic organization and this should also be reflected in the content of the journal. For many years the policy was to accept and publish manuscripts not only in English but in French as well. Abstracts were published in several languages and manuscripts could be submitted in one of the original six main languages of SICOT and peer reviewed from there.

When *International Orthopaedics* was started in the 1970s the number of orthopaedic journals was still limited. By the 1980s there was an increase in the number of journals as printing became less technical. But with the increasing number of journals there was also more pronounced competition – especially on the librarians' budget. At a certain point even the traditional *International Orthopaedics* had to accept that bilingual journals fall behind. Therefore, in the 1990s it was decided to drop the bilingual format and only publish in English, the language that now seems to have taken the lead when major orthopaedic events take place. However, as a reminder of the "good old days" we have kept the French abstract.

Since the beginning it has been stated on the first pages of our journal that *International Orthopaedics* publishes original papers from all over the world. The articles deal with clinical orthopaedic surgery or basic research connected with orthopaedic surgery and this is still the case. As SICOT is dedicated to the improvement of orthopaedic surgery worldwide, the journal as an integral part of the organization also serves this primary goal. However, the journal reflects the life of the organization as well; thus, it welcomes contributions from all members of SICOT – as well as non-members. Focus is on research, but topics dealing with teaching and education, quality assessment, cost/benefit analyses, total care

and guidelines on practical treatment provided under limited economic resources are equally accepted.

In order to facilitate submissions to the journal the instructions to authors have been changed. With the increasing development of electronic communication it is no longer mandatory to submit three copies of the manuscript. One will suffice – and it can be submitted electronically if wished. The authors do not have to worry about the French abstract, the editors will provide a French translation as a service to our contributors. Once the manuscript has been accepted the editors will arrange for copy-editing as well as abstracting in English and French. All the manuscripts will still be peer-reviewed. As a large part of the review process can be accomplished electronically, the process is less time-consuming. The review process can be concluded and the author receive the editorial decision within 4–5 weeks of manuscript submission.

As mentioned earlier [1] manuscripts are now firstly published online and do not necessarily await the printed version. Publication of your manuscript will therefore be more expedient and it is our belief that this also makes the journal highly competitive. The printed version will carry the online publication date and the Digital Object Identifier, which is unique and remains unchanged. The Online First version is therefore fully citable.

The content of the previous 5 years' publication can be found on the Springer Verlag website <http://link.springer-ny.com/link/service/journals/00264/index.htm>, which can also be reached via the editors' website <http://IntOrthop.Sicot.dk>. You will also see links to Online First where you can find newly accepted manuscripts, which have not yet been allocated to the printed version of the journal.

In the 25 years since this journal was first published many changes have been realized; however, it has never been easier to submit a manuscript. There is no longer any excuse for not doing it. The journal awaits more contributions from members in order to keep the journal truly international and to reflect the vitality of the organization.

References

1. K. Skou Andersen (2000) *International Orthopaedics* announces Online First publication. *Int Orthop* 24:241

K. Skou Andersen (✉)
Aabrinken 59, 2830 Virum, Denmark