



Editor in Chief Report 2023

General reflections

During 2023 many of the editors, including the editor in chief, were new in their roles. It has taken time to understand, and sufficiently handle, the new submission system, ScholarOne, used by Taylor & Francis. The main obstacles have been to manage manuscripts from the old submission system and to find suitable reviewers.

Some of the manuscripts from the old submission system were stuck in the new submission system due to the requirement of at least two reviewers per manuscript. However, almost all of these manuscripts have now been handled, but it could possibly have affected the journal's reputation negatively due to the long time to handle these manuscripts.

In the previous submission system there was a list of Scandinavian reviewers for primary health care. This is no longer possible, due to GDPR. The editorial board have discussed how to more easily find reviewers, and we have learnt a lot on this during 2023.

Editorial team

During 2023 NFGP decided that all editors should be called national editors. Previously editors were divided into national editors and assistant editors. Only the national editors were normally invited to the yearly Copenhagen meeting. From 2023 all editors of the editorial team will be invited to the Copenhagen meeting. This is important since all editors perform similar tasks and need to be part of the discussions in the editorial team.

There have been several changes of positions in the editorial team during 2023. The reasons are that some editors have had the position for several years and therefore want to resign. Also the change to the new submission system has to some extent played a role.

Table 1. Changes in the editorial team during 2023

Editor in Chief	Resigned: Helena Liira New: Anna Nager
National editor (NE) Denmark	Resigned: Jørgen Nexøe & Anna Mygind Rasmussen New: Peter Haastrup
National editor (NE) Finland	Resigned: Markku Timonen New: Frida Gyllenberg
National editor (NE) Iceland	Resigned: Emil Sigurdsson & Hannes Hrafnkelsson New: Margrét Ólafía Tómasdóttir & Hálfván Pétursson

National editor (NE) Norway	New: Torsten Risør
National editor (NE) Sweden	Resigned: Cecilia Björkelund New: Jörgen Månsson

Table 2. SJPHC National editors in the beginning of 2024

Country	National editors
Denmark	Linda Huibers & Peter Hastrup
Finland	Mikael Ekblad & Frida Gyllenberg
Iceland	Margrét Ólafía Tómasdóttir & Hálfán Pétursson
Norway	Torunn Bjerve Eide & Torsten Risør
Sweden	Hans Thulesius & Jörgen Månsson

Editorial board meetings 2023

The editorial board met in Copenhagen during March 2023.

In addition, the editorial board has had five digital meetings during 2023; in March, April, May, October and November.

Published papers and rejection rate

During 2023, 186 manuscripts were submitted. The acceptance rate during 2023 was 39 %, see table 3. Note that the acceptance rate is not assessed on the number of submitted manuscripts during 2023, since some of these are still under review (Jan 2024). The number of published manuscripts during 2023 was 56:

- Issue 1: 12
- Issue 2: 9
- Issue 3: 17
- Issue 4: 18

Comparison to previous years:

- Published manuscripts during 2022: 59
- Published manuscripts during 2021: 67
- Published manuscripts during 2020: 60

There is a dip in published paper in the end of 2022 and in the beginning of 2023, which is probably due to the change of submission systems.

Table 3. Accepted and rejected manuscripts for SJPHC by country during 2023

Country/Region	Accept	Reject	Total	Accept Ratio
Austria	0	1	1	0,00%
China	0	25	25	0,00%
Denmark	5	8	13	38,46%
Ethiopia	0	2	2	0,00%
Finland	8	6	14	57,14%
Ghana	0	2	2	0,00%
India	0	3	3	0,00%
Iran (the Islamic Republic of)	0	5	5	0,00%
Iraq	0	1	1	0,00%
Italy	0	1	1	0,00%
Japan	0	1	1	0,00%
Netherlands	5	1	6	83,33%
Norway	18	6	24	75,00%
Pakistan	0	1	1	0,00%
Poland	0	1	1	0,00%
Saudi Arabia	0	1	1	0,00%
Spain	0	3	3	0,00%
Sweden	17	7	24	70,83%
Switzerland	0	2	2	0,00%
Taiwan	0	2	2	0,00%
Turkey	0	2	2	0,00%
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1	1	2	50,00%
	1	3	4	25,00%
Total	55	85	140	39,29%

Journal impact factor (JIF)

The 2022 impact factor has moved to 2.1 from 3.147 (for 2021). One reason for this change is likely to be that two highly cited articles in the journal were from 2019 and these were outside the window on the Journals Citation Reports as the impact factor looks at a set window of articles. That window is now 2020–2021 so these really well cited 2019 articles were not included towards the impact factor anymore. Although this may be disappointing, the five year journal impact factor for 2022 is still strong at 2.5.

Cooperation with the publisher

The cooperation with Taylor & Francis has been sufficient. The editor in chief has had monthly meetings with the Portfolio Manager for SJPHC at Taylor & Francis, discussing ways to improve the reviewing process and other tasks, such as Article collection.

Taylor & Francis offers support for Article collections, where authors are invited to publish in the journal on themes decided by the editorial board. During 2023 the editorial board suggested an article collection on the theme “The Continuity of Care in Primary Health Care”, and the process for completing this has started during 2023.

Finances

The author processing charges have increased from EUR 1.595 to EUR 2.110 (Jan 2024) per article and the society members will get a 30% discount.

Plans for 2024

The first goal is to keep the current editorial team stable, so that we together can develop the editorial work and perform it with high quality and efficiency.

During 2024 SJPHC will publish the article collection “The Continuity of Care in Primary Health Care”. Hopefully one or two more article collections will be planned and possibly published.

We will increase the efficiency of the reviewing process by using “reject and resubmit” to a larger extent, and adding a mail template for this in the submission system. This could be used if the editor considers a manuscript interesting to publish in SJPHC, but of too low quality for sending to reviewers. Such manuscripts often generate long decision times since reviewers are hard to find for low quality manuscripts. Another improvement that we will try is tagging reviewers in the submission system so that Scandinavian primary health care researchers are more easily found for invitation to review. We will also discuss compensation for reviewers, possibly reduced fees for NCGP.

During 2024 SJPHC will have a symposium at NCGP in Turku called “Writing an article more easily accepted and understanding the peer review process – meet the editors of Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care”. At the conference also the Paper of the year prizes for 2022 and 2023 will be awarded.

Finally, I want to thank the editorial board and the NFGP office for all the efforts and the good cooperation during 2023!

Täby, January 2024

Anna Nager
Editor in Chief