In a few weeks’ time, a new team will be in charge of *Diabetes & Metabolism*, the Journal of the Société francophone du diabète (SFD), formerly the Association de Langue française pour l’étude du diabète et des maladies métaboliques (ALFEDIAM).

Before placing the reins in the hands of the next Editor-in-Chief of D&M, Fabrice Bonnet, I would like to share some facts to demonstrate how we have progressed since January 2005.

Many changes have been introduced by our Editorial Board and by Elsevier-Masson, our publisher, since then, including standardized presentation of articles and abstracts, a new cover design, new “Instructions to authors” and a way to submit manuscripts online.

However, the most noteworthy thing to point out is the development of D&M.

In 2005, our first editorial year, D&M received (by mail or by post) 115 manuscripts, of which 76 were published. The acceptance rate was 80% at that time, and the impact factor was 1.4.

Now, eight years later, things have changed. In 2011, we received online through the Elsevier Editorial System (EES) 252 manuscripts, of which 202 were published. The acceptance rate was 80% at that time, and the impact factor was 3.03.

In 2010, the impact factor was 2.84, in 2009 it was 2.66, in 2008 it was 2.48, in 2007 it was 2.27, in 2006 it was 2.09, in 2005 it was 1.9, in 2004 it was 1.7, and in 2003 it was 1.1.

Fig. 1. Progression of the *Diabetes & Metabolism* impact factor (IF) from 2002 to 2011.
manuscripts. That same year, D&M published 91 manuscripts in its six regular issues and four supplements, which altogether included 27 review articles (with an average of three per regular issue), 52 original articles, nine short reports, two editorials and one Letter to the Editor.

At the same time, the acceptance rate dropped to 25%, and the impact factor (IF) rose to 3.033 (Fig. 1). This IF is not very far from that of Diabetic Medicine. In 2012, the delay between final manuscript acceptance and electronic publication was down to two weeks.

Of all manuscripts submitted in 2011, 30% came from France, 5% from French-speaking European countries and Canada, 20% from other European countries and 45% from outside of Europe (mainly China, India, Africa and the USA). This figure is a good reflection of the increased recognition of D&M by the international scientific community.

All this work has been done with no serious problems or confusion thanks to a very strict editorial process. We are very grateful to Mrs Frédérique Lefèvre, who has been in charge of the Editorial Office during all those years. Her personal contribution to the success of D&M is major, as emphasized by the current President of the SFD, Professor Michel Marre, during the General Assembly of our Association on March 2012 in Nice.

All manuscripts have been edited for English by Sharyn Wong, and figures have been professionally drawn by Marc Donon. Both of them have been largely involved in the quality of the Journal, and we wish to thank them for their excellent work.

Scientific evaluation of the manuscripts has been based upon a large number of dedicated, highly effective and available referees, and on the permanent and effective support of the Editorial Board. I wish to express my personal gratitude to Professors José Timsit (Executive Editor), Beverley Balkau, Jacqueline Capeau, Pascal Ferré, Annick Fontbonne, André Grimaldi, Etienne Larger, Pascale Massin, Louis Monnier, André Scheen, Dominique Simon and Paul Valensi for their friendly collaboration together with their definitive and constructive input. For me, it has been a privilege to work with them all, and to share in the in-depth discussions of new ideas and results of research in the field of diabetes and its complications, and metabolic diseases.

Throughout all these years, we have also received strong, friendly and highly professional support from the Elsevier team in charge of D&M, Mrs Freya Weise and Mrs Marie-Pierre Cancel. We are happy to thank them here.

Finally, new developments, including electronic publishing and competition with open-access journals (some with names not so different from D&M, another element favouring D&M recognition by the diabetes scientific community), will be, among others, the starting platform for incoming Editor-in-Chief Fabrice Bonnet and his Editorial Board.

My very best wishes go to them for the coming years. I am confident in their success in furthering the development of our Journal in future.

Disclosure of interest

The author declares that he has no conflicts of interest concerning this article.

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