EDITORIAL

OTSR-RCOT: 1 year already!

One year ago, Orthopedics & Traumatology: Surgery & Research (OTSR) was launched, with its French-language version, Revue de Chirurgie Orthopédique et Traumatologique (RCOT).

The aims were ambitious: the on-line English-language journal to provide an international outlet for the French orthopedic community, and the paper-format French journal to continue to keep our regular French-speaking readership informed. This revolution was made possible by the enthusiasm and determination of the Association des Publications en Chirurgie Orthopédique et Traumatologique (APCORT) and its president, J.Y. Nordin, and of our Editorial Board headed by J.M. Thomine, and by the unfailing support of our partners and publishers, Elsevier-Masson.

The resources deployed were considerable, with all of the original articles translated into English by a team of translators under the supervision of Charles Msika, and 2 years of complete open access to the on-line version at ScienceDirect.com.

The challenge was not easy to rise to. The running-in period was complicated, with the whole submissions circuit turned upside down. But many indicators have been very encouraging. The simultaneous publication deadlines were met for every edition. The editorial team and secretariat showed total commitment, for which they deserve the warmest thanks. The consultation statistics for the ScienceDirect and EM websites reveal exponential growth: +1000% in 6 months. And finally, we have also seen a very considerable rise in submissions, from not only French but also English-speaking authors. In the short- to medium-term, we can expect our Review to grow from national to international status.

The launch phase, which is the riskiest, is now behind us. Now it is time to develop the test-run, and there is no lack of projects to enhance our publication and make it yet more attractive:

- The SOFCOT symposia will not come out in the form of detailed minutes in a supplementary edition, but rather as a series of original articles;
- The Société Orthopédique de l’Ouest and Société Française d’Arthroscopie supplements will come out simultaneously in an on-line English-language version and a French-print edition;
- Under an agreement with the Rédaction des Conférences d’Enseignement, five of their 20 congress teaching lectures will be selected each year for publication in the form of updates, in both our English and French language reviews;
- A Basic Science section, under Norbert Passuti, has been set up to publish basic research.

All these innovations and efforts should extend our readership and help spread our French orthopedic culture — but we must in return welcome foreign articles of quality if we are to establish a reputation as an international review. And we mean to achieve this, not by cutting down on the French-language input, but rather by increasing overall volume. This will obviously require new resources, and in particular an enlarged Editorial Board, where J. Tonetti and N. Passuti have just joined R. Seringe, P. Hardy, H. Migaud and J.L. Besse.

So here we are, in midstream. And here I extend special thanks to Jacques Yves Nordin for the work put in by APCORT, which alone allowed this reform to see the light of day. Bernard Augereau, who is taking over from him, will no doubt see the pilot scheme through to fruition.

I also want, personally and on behalf of the Board, to express warmest thanks to Jean-Michel Thomine, who has been developing our review, with his humanism, for 15 years now, while always preserving the spirit, which belongs to the great family, which is the French orthopedic community. He asked to be relieved of his functions as Editor in Chief, and we are delighted to welcome him as Emeritus Editor so that he can continue to give us the benefit of his advice.

Long live OTSR-RCOT!

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