

MSJ 2020 – Editorial Comment

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As we are heading into a new decade, as well as a new year, it is a good time for us, as Editors of the *Multiple Sclerosis Journal* (MSJ) to reflect on the Journal's progress.

This January saw Bill Carroll step down from the Journal after 15 years as an Editor, and we welcome Dr. Ho Jin Kim as the new Editor for Asia Pacific. Ho Jin is joining MSJ from *Multiple Sclerosis Journal – Experimental, Translational and Clinical* (MSJ-ETC), MSJ's open-access sister Journal. Ho Jin Kim is a consultant neurologist and principal scientist at the Research Institute and Hospital of the National Cancer Centre, Goyang, South Korea. He is also a professor in the Department of Cancer Biomedical Science, National Cancer Centre Graduate School of Cancer Science & Policy in South Korea.

Bill Carroll has made major contributions to MSJ since he joined the Journal's editorial team as Asia Pacific editor in 2004 (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1191/1352458504ms1003ed>), after having already spent several years on the Journal's Editorial Board. Through Bill's time as Editor, the Journal has changed Editor in Chief from Donald H Silberberg to Alan J Thompson, experienced an increase in the impact factor from below 3 to over 5 and seen growth in the representation of the Asia Pacific community in the Journal. Bill was instrumental in organising the relationship between the Pan-Asian Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (PACTRIMS), which Ho Jin as Vice President will continue to help flourish.

In the coming year, Alan Thompson will be stepping down as Editor in Chief after 15 years in this role, preceded by 6 years as Editor for Europe. This critical position has already been advertised, and we are looking forward to seeing global candidates from the Journal's strong and diverse field.

MSJ-ETC continues to develop steadily and in line with our expectations as a result of the increasing focus on open access following 'cOAlition S' 2018 guidance for European Union-funded research (<https://www.coalition-s.org/>). The Journal is posed to submit for the impact factor evaluation, but the Editors are keen to get the timing right to ensure the biggest impact.

The Journal's affiliations with key organisations such as ECTRIMS and ACTRIMS are important to the Journal's development. The Journal publishes several abstract books a year, and we value the contributions made from international meetings across the year. A yearly list is available here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/msj/congressabstractsandsupplements>. In 2019, we were pleased to publish a themed issue focused on Rehabilitation in MS, guest edited by Peter Feys and Jaume Sastre-Garriga (<https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/msja/25/10>). This issue together with the Journal's affiliation with Rehabilitation in MS (RIMS) (www.eurims.org) aims to keep rehabilitation in the mind's eye of the field.

This is the second year in which the Journal's impact factor exceeded five. The Journal continues to benefit from original contributions, and as Editors, we strive to be rigorous with our decisions to ensure the Journal is publishing the very best. We recognise it is not easy for authors when papers are rejected. To optimise the review process, we meet the editorial board yearly to obtain feedback on the process. As always, we are grateful to the reviewers and editorial board members who put in time and effort to make sure that only the best possible papers are published in MSJ.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors receive honoraria from SAGE for their editorial work on the journal; they declare no conflicts of interest in writing this article, nor any specific funding for it.

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