Editorial

OBESITY FACTS – a Retrospective and the Way Forward

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In 2008, OBESITY FACTS was established as a new scientific forum for obesity research and has gained considerable reputation in the scientific community since then. The journal was originally conceived to cover a broad spectrum of topics in obesity research ranging from genetics to psychological and psychiatric aspects, bariatric surgery, epidemiology, endocrinology, and public health issues. The development and successful promotion of this concept is mainly the merit of Johannes Hebebrand who, assisted by Karger Publishers, did an excellent job as founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal. For this impressive achievement he certainly deserves high recognition. At the end of 2013, after 6 years of enthusiastic commitment, Johannes Hebebrand decided to step down. As the new Editor-in-Chief of OBESITY FACTS, I will do my best to continue the success story and to further develop the journal as a forum for inspiring scientific information and communication.

A major change in the history of the journal was the transformation into an open access journal in 2012, creating a wider perception of and reference to the articles. In a time of increasing budget constraints for many academic libraries, but growing research activities in this scientific field all over the world, the open access availability of OBESITY FACTS may ascertain a much better dissemination of the new findings published in the journal, particularly in less wealthy countries. It is also expected that this action, although associated with publication fees for authors, may substantially contribute to increase the number of citations of the articles published.

From the beginning, OBESITY FACTS has built up a strategic alliance with the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO). The journal is the official organ of EASO, and there is a regular interexchange with the EASO executive board. This collaboration and support has been extremely helpful and fruitful.

Where to go with OBESITY FACTS in the years to come? After its successful start and establishment it is a reasonable policy to proceed along these lines aiming to establish OBESITY FACTS

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as one of the key journals in obesity research in Europe. However, some minor amendments and modifications are planned: First, we would like to strengthen our ties with EASO and its activities within the task forces, e.g., by publishing EASO statement papers and official guidelines. Second, we would especially like to encourage researchers from member countries of EASO to submit manuscripts by granting a 50% reduction on the article processing fee for members of EASO and its national member associations in 2014. Third, we would like to initiate debates and discussions by inviting reviews and articles on current controversial topics in obesity research. Your input as readers, authors and members of the Editorial Board as how to further improve the journal is of course highly appreciated. Let us combine our efforts to further strengthen obesity research in Europe.

We are more than ever convinced that a European journal of obesity such as OBESITY FACTS is needed in view of the rapidly expanding obesity research activities in Europe and elsewhere.