



Future prospects after our successful launch of Brain & Spine

Following the late summer 2021 launch of Brain & Spine, our own scientific journal of EUROSPINE and EANS, the first peer reviewed manuscripts saw the light of the world wide web. Due to the huge amount of administrative work, such as launching the journal's ScienceDirect, Elsevier.com and Editorial Manager websites, as well as setting up the Editorial Board expert information consistently, we humbly expected the first scientific manuscripts to be online in January 2022.

We were, however, happily surprised that good quality studies were being submitted as soon as the Editorial Manager submission and peer review platform launched in the summer of 2021 and our Editorial Board members were able to support us with the critical peer review process. To see the abstracts of our 2021 annual congresses and already twenty peer reviewed papers online published by the end of 2021 makes us feel very proud on behalf of both societies and gives a good/signifies at good start to 2022.

Brain and Spine has received its first indexation with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) shortly before the publishing of this Editorial. Our next aim is to apply for PubMedCentral and Clarivate's Web of Science Emerging Sources Citations Index (ESCI), once we reach the desired criteria of 25 published articles, which we are on track to achieve by early Spring 2022. It is worth noting that PMC lists/includes articles that were published in the first two years of a journals launch, so if we are successful this year we can expect all of our content to be retrospectively included and listed on PMC/PubMed. Note: The difference between PMC and PubMed is that all articles in PMC contain the full text, while not all references in PubMed will have the corresponding full text. Only the citation and abstract may be available in PubMed. An additional Scopus application is possible once the journal has been actively publishing for two years.

Success of a scientific journal in the early years can often be unknown and involve a level of risk due to the likelihood for example of peaking too early with new content. However, from our perspective as Editors-in-Chief, such concerns are likely to be mitigated thanks in large part to our societies support and dedication to the long-term sustainability of the journal and the members we can rely on to submit their high-quality scientific papers over the years. Having more than 3500 individual members representing both societies EUROSPINE (n = 1500) & EANS (n = 2100), as well as a multitude of members of national spine (n = 6500) and neurosurgical (n = 7000) societies, it is clear we have ample researchers and scientific power enabling us to thrive with our own vital journal that is Brain & Spine. Furthermore, we expect our young residents and PhD students to see BAS as their go-to journal for publishing their high-quality papers in the field of brain and spine diseases. We also see the future of our societies' journal as being well and truly rooted in the hands of the next generation of residents, young orthopedic and

neurological surgeons, as well as biomedical scientist in the booming field of musculoskeletal and neurosciences.

With regard to the future scientific impact of the journal, that requires continuous vigilance from us as the Editors-in-Chief to ensure we continue to accept and publish high quality articles across the broad scope of Brain & Spine. As EUROSPINE and EANS we ourselves are responsible for the success of our journal. If we do not submit high quality clinical studies, systematic reviews and section guidelines and screen the manuscripts for good citation index potential a reasonable impact factor we will fail to achieve our ambitious and exciting goals. As Editors-in-Chief we do however have a very strong belief in the quality of the EUROSPINE & EANS researchers and are therefore very optimistic to reach good citation reports within five years. For this reason, a large Editorial Board was created consisting of key opinion leaders and peer researchers with a proven scientific publication history in brain and spine research. This group of current editorial board colleagues, with an equal distribution of membership from both societies, have a serious track record of peer reviewing work for the top journals in their field as well as general medical journals. Therefore, these scientists are well appointed to distinguish between high and low impact quality manuscripts, which unhappily for some also leads to some disappointment for submitting authors, receiving an editorial message to perform major revisions or their manuscript will be rejected for publishing.

On a separate note, we also want to mention the frequently asked question by our colleagues of EUROSPINE and EANS, as to why we decided to launch and open access journal publishing online only? Our first and foremost response is that unrestricted visibility with a grand medical and societal outreach, besides our own specialisms, is key for journal's launching in today's scientific publishing arena. Furthermore, by creating an open access platform, we expect this format to support our goal of achieving a scientific impact factor within four years. This impact factor, although frequently a point of hot scientific debate, is still of paramount importance in the academic world. This Brain & Spine impact factor will only be reached after citation of published manuscripts by future studies which typically takes at least three to four years.

Secondly, it is clear that open access is a publishing model that more and more funding bodies, institutions and policymakers are mandating to ensure that everyone benefits from open access advances in science. For most of us in the Editorial Board, being the X-generation or even one generation older as baby-boomers, this online open access publishing model is new, so many of us might continue to download and print PDF versions. Nonetheless, we expect our Brain & Spine readers and authors to be predominantly from the millennials generation (those born between 1980 and 1995 – we had to look that up) and as such they prefer to have on-screen “long reads”. All in all, our open access online journal can cater for us all.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bas.2022.100868>

Available online 19 January 2022

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To end our 2022 Editorial we want to reiterate that our EUROSPINE and EANS scientific journal is YOUR journal and our success depends on both our established members, researchers and surgeons as well as our young up and coming ones.

Our best Brain & Spine wishes for 2022 and let us submit and publish.

With many thanks and acknowledgements to our BAS editorial office team, led by Elsevier Senior Publisher Aisling Murphy and Journal Manager Adam Thomas and the supporting work of both societies Anna Faber, Marketing Communication Manager of EUROSPINE and Valentini Amarantidou, Director of EANS.

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