

Higher relevance, increased speed and greater accessibility



Dear readers,

How time flies! We hope you enjoy this final 2009 issue of *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health* with its special emphasis on creating the business case for occupational safety and health. We will continue this theme next year, when we publish **Part II in July**. Volume 36, issue 1 of the Journal, due out in January, will be a “normal” issue followed by a focus on shift work and health in March. In addition, the Journal is sponsoring a competition for best paper at the Seventh International Conference on the Prevention of Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (PREMUS) (see p480), the best of which will be published as a theme. To be included in this competition, abstracts must be submitted to PREMUS by 15 January.

In the course of this year, we made some important changes which are relevant for both our readers and authors. We shortened our publication lag and pre-published on our website all accepted manuscripts as soon as they were edited and formatted. This is important because it allows more time for papers to be cited and increases the timeliness of available research. Moreover, the pace of our editorial process has picked up – the average initial decision took only five days while authors normally received post-peer review feedback within seven weeks. Combined with our efforts to publish advanced access to all manuscripts, this enables authors to get their research out there as soon as possible as long as they are prepared to put in the time and effort in revision. In aid of greater speed, the Journal has implemented a revised editorial database and gone 100% electronic from submission to pre-print. This has eliminated several delays and (hopefully) enhanced the communication process between the Journal, its reviewers, and authors.

In 2009, we also introduced email alerts of each new issue, extended the online archive back to 1975 and offered open access to the top-cited articles from the last two years. In addition, authors have the possibility of having their manuscript selected for permanent free access if nominated as Editor’s Choice (one per issue). **Early next year**, we also hope to present you with a new look website, offering some additional features such as an upgraded search function, possibility for rss feeds and an overview of the top-viewed online articles by year and month.

The *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health* was proud to see its impact factor increase to 2.807, placing it 23rd out of 105 journals in the Thomson ISI category of Public, Environmental and Occupational Health Journals. With the continued support of our dedicated Associate Editors, extensive Editorial Board, authors, and you – our readers – we hope to see this figure climb in the coming years. Best wishes for a wonderful new year! Your feedback or suggestions for improvement are always welcome.

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