
EDITORIAL

You have undoubtedly noticed that during the past year this journal has strongly emphasised the importance of publications. Different aspects of publications were discussed and in the previous two volumes received our President's special attention. You may also remember that I referred to this subject in my editorial to vol. 6 no. 3 of 2007.

While compiling a lecture on how to publish in our field of expertise, I requested our librarian to do a search of the literature on the subject. To my amazement very little was available. For a reason unknown to me, the only exception was the nursing profession which has produced a number of publications.

In addition, I had a look at articles published a long time ago, specifically before the invention of X-rays. What a pleasure it was to read parts of publications by Abraham Colles, 1843, and Royal Whitman, whose writings were originally delivered as a lecture in 1888 and later published.

The detail of the clinical descriptions of their patients is striking. There was no other way available to them to convey their knowledge to fellow surgeons except the description of a detailed clinical examination.

What is the message for us who live in the 21st century, surrounded by tools and aids?

The foundation of writing on clinical subjects still is a detailed clinical examination that is **well-documented** and **followed up** in order to form the basis of sound conclusions. May this basic fact inspire us to start laying the foundation of future publications in our own practices.

I also strongly advise you to write review articles. It is within the scope of any orthopaedic surgeon to study the available literature on his preferred subject and then present our readers with the latest information on a given topic.

There is great satisfaction in putting one's knowledge of a subject in writing and preparing a publication. It enables the orthopaedic surgeon to take the accomplishment of a very time-consuming task to a whole new level.

If people such as Whitman, Colles and many others could produce excellent articles, why not you?!

Prof RP Gräbe
Editor-in-Chief

