

Editorial

OBESITY FACTS – 10 Successful Years

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OBESITY FACTS is celebrating its 10th anniversary. This is a welcome opportunity to briefly review the past 10 years in a rapidly changing world of science.

Since the first issue of OBESITY FACTS was released in February 2008, the journal ran through an eventful history. Initially projected as a forum for obesity research in Europe, the journal rapidly developed, thanks to the commitment of its founding editor Johannes Hebebrand who did an excellent job to attract novel and interesting articles and reviews from many research groups covering a broad range of topics. Within the first 4 years, there was a rapid increase in submissions, and the rejection rate increased to close to 70%.

In 2013, the decision was made to continue OBESITY FACTS as an online journal with worldwide open access. The big advantage of this move was that the journal became easily accessible all over the world, including poorer countries. This was also in agreement with the policy of the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) to disseminate recent findings in obesity research as broadly as possible. However, this step required the introduction of publication fees to cover the costs caused by the publication process. Despite substantial fee reduction for EASO members, this conversion initially led to a rapid and substantial decrease in the number of submission in 2013 and 2014. However, in the following years, the number of submissions increased continuously, and in 2016 we again reached a satisfying level of submissions, with a current rejection rate of 63%. The ‘European character’ of the journal is reflected by the fact that 52.5% of all submissions in 2016 were from European countries. The remaining submissions came from all over the world, showing that the perception of the journal is no longer confined to Europe and that OBESITY FACTS meanwhile is a multinational platform for obesity research.

Needless to say that such a success story is based on joint activities of many enthusiastic people. Therefore, I want to thank all colleagues who served as associate editors, in the editorial board, and as reviewers. Finally, I am indebted to our authors who submitted the sweet fruits (fully ripe, without added sugar!) of their enormous efforts to answer research questions, develop the field, and produce novel insights. I am also very happy that a highly committed publisher is producing this journal. S. Karger is a European publisher with a long

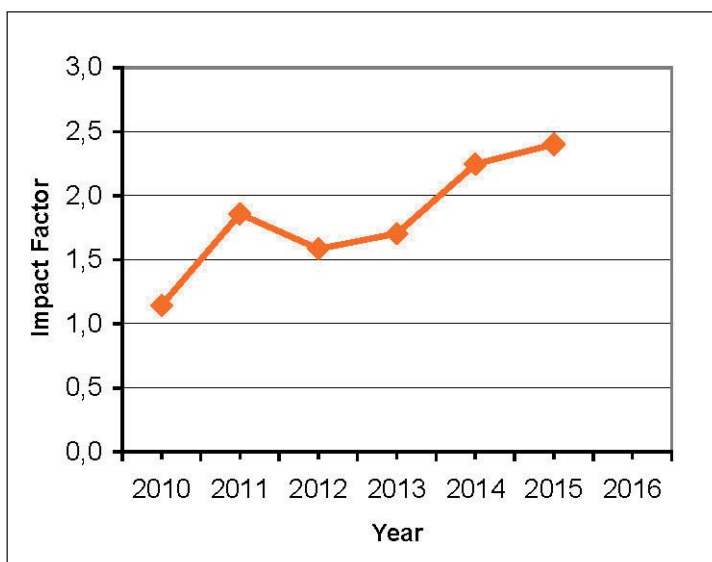


Fig. 1. The Impact factor of OBESITY FACTS.

tradition of creativity, patience, and competence who knows how to establish a high-quality journal. It is a pleasure to have this effective and professional partnership. This is particularly valuable at a time when the publication of scientific articles has become a business model with a lot of dubious providers. This development is also affecting the field of obesity research. Numerous scientific journals came up in the past years, and the competition among the journals is extraordinary. It is certainly a huge advantage that OBESITY FACTS is the official journal of the EASO and the German Obesity Society (DAG). Only recently, also the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders – European Chapter (IFSO-EC) became interested in intensifying collaboration and in promoting OBESITY FACTS as an attractive journal for publishing research data in bariatric surgery. This is perfectly in line with recent developments and insights that surgical and conservative obesity medicine are just two sides of the same coin. Thus there is general agreement that we need better integrated management in the near future.

The acceptance and success of OBESITY FACTS can be easily measured by methods originally developed by the Institute for Scientific Information and other institutions to evaluate the number of references to articles published in a specific journal. The journal had been accepted by Medline and by the Web of Science in 2009, and the first reliable Impact Factor of OBESITY FACTS was that of 2010 which amounts to 1.1. Since that time, the journal has increased its impact and visibility continuously up to the current Impact Factor of 2.4 (fig. 1). At present, OBESITY FACTS is no. 84 among 133 journals listed in the category 'Endocrinology and Metabolism' and no. 39 among 80 in 'Nutrition and Dietetics'. We will do our best to further raise the impact factor in the years to come. and we are convinced that – due to the increasing quality of papers – this will be a rather achievable and likely goal.

We are fully aware that the success and attractiveness of a scientific journal depends on the quality of the contributions from researchers and clinicians. Therefore, we want to encourage you to give feedback and to submit the best results of your scientific activities to OBESITY FACTS.