

The year past and the year ahead – some facts and figures about *Eurosurveillance*

Eurosurveillance editorial team¹

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The year 2016 marks the 20th year in which *Eurosurveillance* has been published regularly. And there are good news for the journal's contributors and supporters. *Eurosurveillance* has remained among the top 10 journals in its field in science citation index since it was awarded its first impact factor for the year 2011. Feedback indicates that the journal has a reputation for publishing an interesting mix of public health-relevant and scientific articles to serve its diverse audiences.

Looking back at the year 2015, the wide range of topics included matters that were high on the public health agenda: communicable diseases in connection with the refugee crisis, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) coronavirus epidemic and the largest MERS outbreak outside the Arabian Peninsula shaking the Korean health system, influenza vaccine effectiveness in a season with antigenic mismatch between circulating and vaccine A(H3N2) viruses, and antimicrobial resistance – in particular carbapenemase-producing Gram-negative multidrug-resistant organisms and emergence of colistin resistance. We also dedicated a special issue to HIV and sexually transmitted infections with a focus on epidemiology, prevention and control among men who have sex with men in Europe [1].

We continue with a mix of topics also in the first issue of 2016. It features a rapid communication on cholera importation from the Philippines which serves as reminder to consider this in advice for travellers to endemic areas other than Haiti and Africa [2]. Another rapid communication reports the likely establishment of schistosomiasis in the Canu River on Corsica and its implications [3]. Furthermore, an article from New Zealand on the influenza vaccine effectiveness from the most recent influenza season in the southern hemisphere gives some indication for what might be expected during the ongoing season in the northern hemisphere [4].

As is our tradition at the beginning of every year, we publish a list with the names of peer reviewers who supported us in the past year [5]. We are grateful to some 530 experts who dedicated their time and reviewed for us in 2015. Their thoughts and expertise are invaluable for our decision-making. We are also guided times and again by our board and a whole-hearted 'Thank you' goes to our associate editors and editorial advisors for this. Other supporters and colleagues who help us and who are often partners for testing ideas remain unnamed here, still we would like to thank them warmly and hope to be able to count on them also in 2016. We are grateful for continued funding, logistic support and encouragement from our publisher the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) who grants us the editorial freedom we need to work according to the scientific standards we aspire.

With all this support, *Eurosurveillance* fared well. The impact factor for 2014, released in 2015, is at 5.7 (4.6 in 2013) and the journal is well positioned also in other metrics such as those provided by SCImago and Google scholar. The editorial office received on average 64 submissions per month. Of the total 770 articles submitted in 2015 (491 regular, 240 rapid communications, 39 other), we selected for peer-review those that we deemed of most interest for our readers. The rejection rate currently stands at around 73%, i.e. ca one in four submissions will make it to publication. The geographical origin of our submissions showed a worldwide distribution also in 2015. A number of articles from outside of Europe were accepted for publication while the bulk of published work was from Europe and published articles generally are of European relevance. From January 2016 onwards, two new associate editors, Professor Magnus Boman, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden and Professor Jacob Moran-Gilad, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, Israel, have joined the editorial board as associate editors. They will complement the strength of the present

group with their respective expertise as computational epidemiologist and clinical microbiologist, and in public health.

Success and recognition of a journal come with better visibility and more attention. Scientists in academia and public health are under pressure to publish in journals with a solid impact factor to advance their careers. Timely publication, authorship and data ownership are highly relevant. Publication ethics have been on the editors' agenda for many years and in the resolution of complaints, appeals and requests for authorship changes we have followed available guidance from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, <http://publicationethics.org/>). In 2015, we invited a council member of COPE to give a presentation at our board meeting. To inform our contributors and readers about our procedures, we recently published policies on appeals and complaints and on changes in authorship on our website.

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Every year comes with new challenges and surprises. We are looking forward to what 2016 will bring. We are confident that together with our board members, authors, supporters and readers, we will face the new challenges and continue to provide timely and important data for public health action and evidence for policymaking. In November, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Eurosurveillance* at our scientific seminar on the margins of the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) in Stockholm.

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