

Where we are – where we are heading

In the third year after changing from a multilingual national journal to an English-language continental European journal, and hiving off national continuous education for doctors to our new sister journal the Swiss Medical Forum, the Swiss Medical Weekly is alive and well.

Our impact factor has risen more than 3fold over that of our predecessor, the *Schweizerische Medizinische Wochenschrift*, in only two years and has moved us ahead of our closest continental European competitors. We are more than sensitive to the argument that the impact factor is not everything and does not necessarily correlate with the impact of a journal, yet a high impact factor attracts authors not already persuaded to submit their work to our journal by such “nice to haves” ... as rapid listing in Medline, free full text access to the publication via the Internet, attractive colour offprints at no extra cost, or the help of our professional statistician.

The number of submissions has risen, in particular those from outside the country. However, we would like to publish one or two articles more per week – though not at the expense of quality. In 2003 we have increased our rejection rate from

35% (2001) and 48% (2002) to 60%. While it cannot be our goal to increase our rejection rate, we do want to have the freedom to compose issues of the SMW that are more attractive to our readers, by placing articles of interest to diverse readerships in every issue and papers highlighting different aspects of the same subject in one issue.

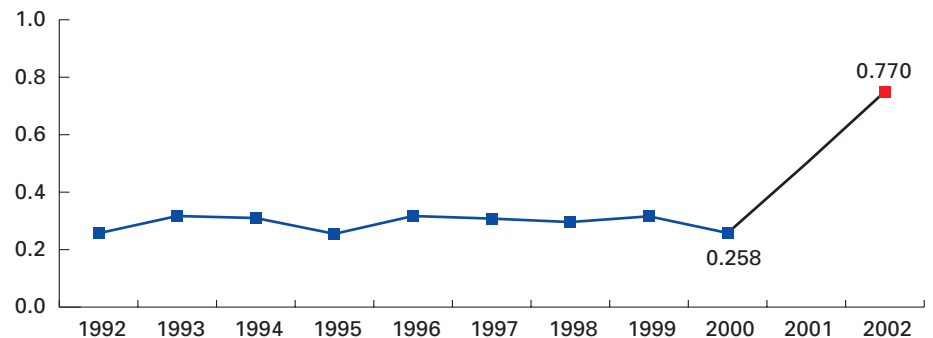
An important goal for the next year will be to enliven our journal by soliciting editorials from experts in the field of original articles; to that end we have decided to invite an international editorial board to assist us in selecting editorialists and receiving input in our search for guest review authors. We would also welcome more comments from our readers in response to published articles.

Finally, we would like to thank authors and referees for their unstinting support in our efforts during the past year to become one of the leading continental journals with a broad medical sweep. We trust we shall continue to hear from all of you in the coming year.

Andreas Schaffner, MD
Editor in Chief SMW

Figure 1

Impact factor Schweizerische Medizinische Wochenschrift (1992–2000) and Swiss Medical Weekly, 2002. ISI covered the old title Schweiz Med Wschr until the end of 2000, and then began coverage of the Swiss Medical Weekly in 2001. The title Swiss Medical Weekly appeared in the 2001 Journal Citation Reports (JCR), the ISI product which lists impact factors, with only an immediacy index because articles were not published under this title during this impact factor period (1999 and 2000).



The many reasons why you should choose SMW to publish your research

What Swiss Medical Weekly has to offer:

- SMW's impact factor has been steadily rising, to the current 1.537
- Open access to the publication via the Internet, therefore wide audience and impact
- Rapid listing in Medline
- LinkOut-button from PubMed with link to the full text website <http://www.smw.ch> (direct link from each SMW record in PubMed)
- No-nonsense submission – you submit a single copy of your manuscript by e-mail attachment
- Peer review based on a broad spectrum of international academic referees
- Assistance of our professional statistician for every article with statistical analyses
- Fast peer review, by e-mail exchange with the referees
- Prompt decisions based on weekly conferences of the Editorial Board
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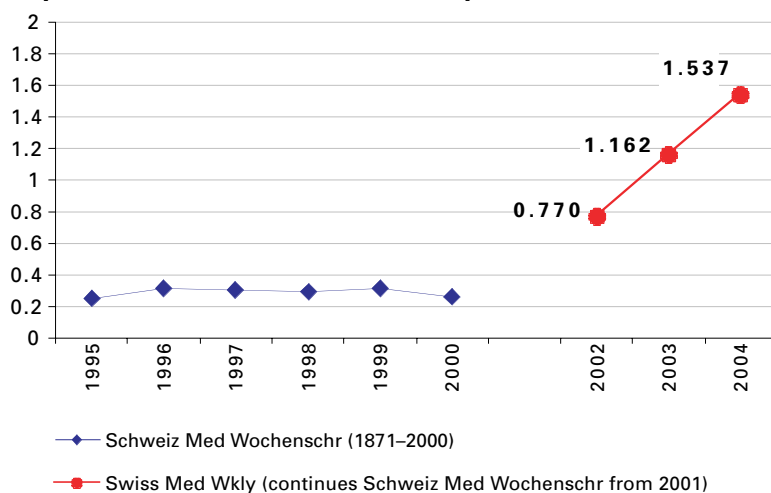
We evaluate manuscripts of broad clinical interest from all specialities, including experimental medicine and clinical investigation.

We look forward to receiving your paper!

Guidelines for authors:

http://www.smw.ch/set_authors.html

Impact factor Swiss Medical Weekly



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