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On: 19 February 2014, At: 15:30

Publisher: Taylor & Francis

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European Journal of Sport Science

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tejs20>

EJSS going forward apace

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Published online: 18 Feb 2014.

To cite this article: Andrew M. Jones (2014) EJSS going forward apace, European Journal of Sport Science, 14:1, 1-1, DOI: [10.1080/17461391.2014.882578](http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17461391.2014.882578)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17461391.2014.882578>

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EDITORIAL

EJSS going forward apace

There are, I believe, three distinguishing characteristics of scientific journals that increase their attractiveness to researchers. These are a Medline listing, a short-time lag from acceptance of a manuscript to final print publication, and a respectable impact factor. Recently, the *European Journal of Sport Science* (EJSS) has recorded significant success on all three fronts.

In March 2013, we learnt that the EJSS had been successful in its application to receive a listing on Medline. This represents a crucially important development for the journal because it means that the research articles published in EJSS are now more visible and accessible to researchers around the world. This would be expected to translate into increased citations for articles published in EJSS (and therefore a higher impact factor for the journal in the future) as well as an increased number of submissions of high-quality articles. A search on 'Eur J Sport Sci' in <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed> brings up all the articles accepted for publication in EJSS since March 2013.

In 2014, in addition to the regular issues of EJSS, we will publish a 496-page supplementary issue. This was agreed by the executive board of the *European College of Sport Science* to enable us to significantly reduce the backlog of accepted papers. Near the beginning of my tenure as Editor-in-Chief, the time lag from the acceptance of an article to its print publication was 18–20 months, which was unacceptably long. Following the publication of the supplement, this time lag will be reduced to 5–6 months which is similar to, or better than, other leading international journals in the sport and exercise sciences. We have also introduced new procedures

to expedite the processing of manuscripts such that authors can receive decisions more rapidly. This has inevitably resulted in increased selectivity and presently only about 15% of the articles submitted to EJSS are accepted for publication. With this continued approach, I expect that the time lag from acceptance to print publication may be reduced still further. Faster decisions and faster online and print publication of accepted articles would be expected to attract scientists seeking to publish their best work rapidly, creating a 'virtuous circle' both for the journal and the authors who publish in it.

Last year, the impact factor for EJSS increased to 1.146 (for 2012), ranking it a respectable 48th out of 84 journals in the sport sciences. Since its inception, the EJSS has consistently increased its impact factor. The impact factor is a crude and, in many ways, unsatisfactory index of journal quality, but it is increasingly used by authors when selecting a reputable outlet for their research. Although the publication of the supplementary issue this year could result in a short-term fall in impact factor, the developments described above (in particular, the Medline listing) should, in the longer term, result in a sustained increase in impact factor for EJSS.

In summary, the EJSS has enjoyed perhaps its most successful year ever and appears poised to go from strength to strength. I sincerely thank the editors of our five sections, all manuscript reviewers and our esteemed authors for their dynamic contributions to the journal's progress.

Andrew M. Jones
Editor-in-Chief