

Editorial

The editorial board and we wish all the readers a happy, healthy and blessed 2015. The turn of the year is a date to look back and develop plans for the future. The **Health Economics Review** was founded four years ago. Since then the development of this journal has been excellent. Our aim for the journal was to become the leading refereed open access journal in health economics, but also to develop a special focus in certain areas. We are on a good track.

The number of publications has increased from 19 in 2011, to 22 in 2012, 31 in 2013 and 36 last year. The submissions are about twice as much. The time from submission to receive an initial decision to reject, accept or request revisions is currently 50 days on average. Interestingly enough, the submissions come from a broad range of countries. We have received submissions from 27 countries.

Among others, an indicator for the circulation and reputation of an open access journal are the article accesses. This indicator measures the number of times that abstracts or full texts of articles were downloaded from the journal's website. In 2012 we had 61,000 article accesses, in 2013 115,000 and in 2014 more than 200,000. About 30 % of the accesses are from Asia-Pacific, followed by Europe and North America (each above 25 %). So the **Health Economics Review** has become a true and well accepted international platform to search for the latest results of health economics research.

Of course the accesses of the articles show a large variation. An article by Dimitrios Rovithis on using observational data in health economics evaluation was accessed 34,000 times between September 2013 and January 2015, followed by a paper on the national health insurance in Ghana by Philip Dalinjong and Alexander Laar (25,000 accesses between July 2012 and January 2015).

Although the **Health Economics Review** publishes on all topics in health economics, the journal is strong in a couple of topics. Many articles present research on health care issues in developing countries. The editors are very proud of the fact that the **Health Economics Review** is strongest on developing countries in Asia and Africa among health economic journals. The editorial board plans to further strengthen the journal's reputation on this topic.

A second focus is on inequality and justice questions. However, the **Health Economics Review** also contains articles analyzing cost-effectiveness and quality of life effects of certain treatments in all kind of indications, such as schizophrenia, cancer and Alzheimer diseases.

We will also stimulate submissions on the economics of the treatment of rare diseases. Public authorities in the EU and North America have encouraged research on rare diseases and have improved the conditions to market innovative therapeutic concepts for rare diseases. New technologies such as the genome analysis have improved the diagnosis and led to an individualization of the treatments of many orphan diseases, cancer, and COPD. We would like to see more papers on the economic aspects of these issues as well as on the economics of prevention and vaccination programs.

We believe that now the journal is strong enough to apply for ISI citation index. To achieve this goal will be a challenge in 2016. Nowadays the application is a complex procedure. For this we will definitely need the help of all our friends and authors to quote articles from the **Health Economics Review** as often as indicated.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the editorial board, the publisher Springer, our authors and our wonderful referees.

J.-Matthias Graf von der Schulenburg
Editor-in-Chief

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