

Continuity and change at an international Journal

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“It doesn’t matter where you are, you are nowhere compared to where you can go.”

Bob Proctor

Confronting some challenges of the present time, induced the need for some changes, in order to foster continuity of our Journal. In this editorial we would like to announce one such change: Thomas Abel, who served as editor-in-chief since 2001 steps down to dedicate more time to his scientific work. Thomas Abel contributed considerably to the successful transformation of “Sozial- und Präventivmedizin” into the International Journal of Public Health. His role in shaping the scope and focus of the new Journal was crucial. He stimulated the international community resulting in a substantial increase of the visibility, impact—with the impact factor reaching 2.241 in 2010—and reputation of the International Journal of Public Health. We thank him and we are happy that Thomas will still be serving as a senior editor.

Following this change, the International Journal of Public Health adopts a new leadership structure, expanding the editors-in-chief team from two to a board of three leaders. We test this new model in response to the ever increasing burden and complexities editors of Journals face in an ever changing world of scientific production. The three editors-in-chief are committed to share key responsibilities, while taking different roles. Fortunately, continuity will be guaranteed as Thomas Kohlmann, editor-in-chief with Thomas Abel since 2007, stays tuned. Two new editors-in-chief have been appointed from the group of senior editors. Nino Künzli is based in Basel, Switzerland, where he is the Deputy Director at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. The link to the Journal’s main funder, the Swiss School of Public Health, and to the publisher will be key tasks of Nino Künzli. Andrea Madarasova Geckova is a vice-director of the Graduate School

Kosice Institute for Society and Health, Pavel Jozef Safarik University in Kosice, Slovakia. She contributed to introducing the Eastern Europe section within the Journal and she will continue in stimulating contributions from rapidly changing countries outside Western Europe. The new structure and leading team of editor-in-chiefs will continue to develop and strengthen the Journal along the lines of success seen in the past years. Issues of central public health relevance have been highlighted and debated in the International Journal of Public Health, addressing social, cultural and other determinants driving the diversity of health in light of major international transitions. The International Journal of Public Health has become a truly *international* Journal as indicated both by the composition of the editorial board and the origin of its authors. The new leading team will be stimulating progress and debate on a worldwide scale, crossing cultures, regions, nations, and health systems.

There is a clear need to strengthen the exchange of public health research on a global scale not only to prevent the globalization of developments adversely affecting public health but also to foster the globalization of science-based good public-health practice.

The editors-in-chief welcome submissions of international relevance. This does not mean that the International Journal of Public Health will not accept ‘local’ or ‘national’ studies. However, the work shall be of relevance to an international audience, and authors will be asked to make this explicit in a newly added brief text box “Relevance of article to the international reader”.

We are looking forward to receiving interesting manuscripts from the international public health community.

Thomas Kohlmann
Nino Künzli
Andrea Madarasova Geckova