

EDITORIAL

Open Access

Neurological research and practice: the first year



Werner Hacke

One year ago, the first articles in *Neurological Research and Practice* (NRP), a new peer-reviewed open access online-only scientific Journal were published. *Neurological Research and Practice* is the official Journal of the German Neurological Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Neurologie (DGN)), one of the largest national neurological societies worldwide with more than 10,000 members. NRP was created by the leadership of the DGN as an international, English language publication with a broad thematic scope reflecting all clinical, translational and basic research aspects of neurology and neuroscience. We strive to provide a forum for clinicians and scientists working in all areas of neurology including, but not limited to, genetics, vascular diseases, critical care neurology, disorders of the spine, movement disorders, neuroimmunology, infections, neurooncology, epilepsy, neuroimaging and neuroradiology, and degenerative disorders. The Journal publishes Research Articles, Reviews, Clinical Trial Protocols, Guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures, Historical Articles and Reviews and Letters to the Editor.

The announcement of the new Journal came at a time of great competition between neurology journals [1]. With the increasing numbers of journals offering different publishing options for authors, some of which are of quality and some so-called predator journals, it can be difficult to establish a serious, quality-oriented open access journal in this environment. One of the characteristics that distinguishes NRP from many other new journals is that we believe in a strict peer-review process and unlike other open access options we currently do not charge any publication fees, this cost is covered by the DGN.

After 18 months of preparatory work, the first set of seven articles were published by the end of February 2019. Now, one year later, it seems to be a good time to review and reflect on the achievements of the first year of NRP. As the founding Editor-in-Chief of NRP,

I am currently assisted by a most prominent group of almost 100 international Editorial Board Members, among them more than 30% are women. Not surprisingly about 50% of them represent the German Neurological Society, but the remaining experts are geographically diverse and as Editor in Chief I strive to grow the Journal network internationally. We have appointed Section Editors for the topics of History of Neurology, Standard Operating Procedures, and Guidelines. A board of more than 100 reviewers with experience in all areas of neurology and its sister disciplines has been assembled. With such a strong network of neurologists based in Germany it is no surprise that most of our content currently originates from all parts of Germany, from universities and large teaching hospitals. We are pleased to see submissions from elsewhere in Europe but are aiming to grow submissions from all areas, worldwide.

In the first 12 months since launch, more than 40 articles have been published. Most of the Reviews were by invitation, but not all those submitted were accepted. There is a stringent and detailed peer-review process for most articles published in the Journal. Clinical Trial Protocols of trials that are publicly funded, and have already undergone an exhaustive review process, and translations of specific guidelines that are approved by one or several scientific societies and already published in an extensive German version are accepted without additional peer review, with assessment by the Editor in Chief. Unofficial recommendations and Trial Protocols that are not publicly funded undergo a regular peer review process, just like research papers and other articles. Concerning official guidelines, we follow a policy of only publishing abridged versions of already published German guidelines in areas that are not yet covered by other recent international guidelines or that cover an area specific to German neurology.

Correspondence: Werner.Hacke@med.uni-heidelberg.de
University of Heidelberg, Department of Neurology, Im Neuenheimer Feld
400, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany



Table 1 Articles with highest access rates and citations

Article (Author, title)	Reference	Type	Article accesses ^a	Citations/ Altmetric Score ^b
Sembill et al Resumption of oral anticoagulation after spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 12 (2019) [6] doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0018-0	Review	3133	
Mokli et al Computer-aided imaging analysis in acute ischemic stroke – background and clinical applications	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 23 (2019) [11] doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0028-y	Review	2661	
Linker and Chan Navigating choice in multiple sclerosis management	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 5 (2019) [3] doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0005-5	Review	2242	
Dziewas et al Safety and clinical impact of FEES – results of the FEES-registry	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 16 (2019) [5] doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0021-5	Research Article	2242	5/75
Göttle et al An unmet clinical need: roads to remyelination in MS	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 21 (2019) doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0026-0	Review	1818	
Weber et al Distribution and evolution of acute interventional ischemic stroke treatment in Germany from 2010 to 2016	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 4 (2019) [4] doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0010-8	Research Article	1642	5/27
Ganti et al GCS 15: when mild TBI isn't so mild	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 6 (2019) [8] doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-018-0001-1	Research Article	1310	
Bösel First-ever epileptic seizure in adult patients	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 3 (2019) [9] doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0006-4	Standard Operating Procedure	1256	
Ayzenberg et al General principles and escalation options of immunotherapy in autoantibody-associated disorders of the CNS	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 32 (2019) [10] doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0037-x	Review	1240	
Diener et al Cryptogenic stroke and patent foramen ovale	Neurol. Res. Pract. 1, 1 (2019) [2] doi: https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0008-2	Guideline	844	

^aArticle accesses counted as indicated on Neurological Research and Practice on 15 January 2020

^bCitations and Altmetric Scores as indicated on Neurological Research and Practice on 15 January 2020

Some of the manuscripts published have already been cited and several of the papers have already been downloaded more than 1000 times, which is an achievement for a new journal. At the time of writing this, among the 10 most accessed articles were 5 Reviews, 3 Research Articles, 1 Guideline and 1 Standard Operating Procedure [2–11]. Most of them have been accessed more than 1000 times (Table 1). So, this is what has been achieved in the first 12 months; what are our plans for the next year?

Our publication pipeline is small but growing and we continue to invite Reviews on new developments and perspectives, and we welcome submissions of Research Articles. Several Clinical Trial Protocols are already announced, and we have lists of upcoming Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines that will be published within the next 12 months.

The Editorial Board has been a great resource in assisting with launching and establishing NRP, and we continue to grow the Board. By the end of 2020, we will have the first rotation of our Editorial Board and in 2021, we plan to identify Section Editors for the key

areas of neurology such as basic science, neuroimmunology, neurooncology, neurodegeneration and movement disorders, stroke, interventional neurology and critical care, pediatric neurology, cognitive neurology and functional imaging, and neuromuscular disorders.

As the Founding Editor of NRP I am very grateful for the overwhelming support by the leadership of the German Neurological Society represented by our current President Professor Christine Klein, Past President Professor Gereon Fink, Incoming President Christian Gerloff, the Secretary Professor Peter Berlit and the Chief administrative Officer Dr. Thomas Thiekötter, the publisher BMC and all my supporters in the Editorial Board, all the authors for submitting their articles and the group of reviewers for making such an important contribution. It is their work that makes the first year of NRP so successful.

Please continue to support us to make NRP a well-received and influential voice of German neurology publishing content with international relevance.

all the best
Werner Hacke

Author's contributions

WH wrote the manuscript. The author read and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests

WH declares he is Editor-in-Chief of *Neurological Research and Practice*. WH reports payments by the German Neurological Society as compensation for editorial work and travel reimbursement. There are no further competing interests.

Received: 15 January 2020 Accepted: 27 January 2020

Published online: 28 February 2020

References

1. Hacke, W. (2019). Announcing the new launch of neurological research and practice. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 7. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0011-7>.
2. Diener, H., Grau, A., & Baldus, S. (2019). Cryptogenic stroke and patent foramen ovale (abridged and translated version). *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 1. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0008-2>.
3. Linker, R. A., & Chan, A. (2019). Navigating choice in multiple sclerosis management. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 5. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0005-5>.
4. Weber, R., Eyding, J., Kitzrow, M., et al. (2019). Distribution and evolution of acute interventional ischemic stroke treatment in Germany from 2010 to 2016. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 4. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0010-8>.
5. Dziewas, R., auf dem Brinke, M., Birkmann, U., et al. (2019). Safety and clinical impact of FEES – results of the FEES-registry. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 16. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0021-5>.
6. Sembill, J. A., Kuramatsu, J. B., Schwab, S., et al. (2019). Resumption of oral anticoagulation after spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0018-0>.
7. Göttle, P., Förster, M., Weyers, V., et al. (2019). An unmet clinical need: Roads to remyelination in MS. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 21. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0026-0>.
8. Ganti, L., Stead, T., Daneshvar, Y., et al. (2019). GCS 15: when mild TBI isn't so mild. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 6. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-018-0001-1>.
9. Bösel, J. (2019). SOP: First-ever epileptic seizure in adult patients. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 3. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0006-4>.
10. Ayzenberg, I., Faissner, S., Tomaske, L., et al. (2019). General principles and escalation options of immunotherapy in autoantibody-associated disorders of the CNS. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 32. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0037-x>.
11. Mokji, Y., Pfaff, J., dos Santos, D. P., et al. (2019). Computer-aided imaging analysis in acute ischemic stroke – Background and clinical applications. *Neurological Research and Practice*, 1, 23. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42466-019-0028-y>.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Ready to submit your research? Choose BMC and benefit from:

- fast, convenient online submission
- thorough peer review by experienced researchers in your field
- rapid publication on acceptance
- support for research data, including large and complex data types
- gold Open Access which fosters wider collaboration and increased citations
- maximum visibility for your research: over 100M website views per year

At BMC, research is always in progress.

Learn more biomedcentral.com/submissions

