

## Editorial

A dedication to the writers of papers in Physica Medica:

*“[A good paper should be like] a miniskirt:  
long enough to cover what is needed,  
short enough to keep the attention of the reader”*

Adapted from a Mary Quant's definition of the *miniskirt*

Every year, in the first issue of a new volume, I try to illustrate the status of the journal from both the scientific and the editorial point of view.

### *The Editorial Situation*

The composition of the Editorial Board has been largely renewed. Some members have been re-appointed for a three year term and new members have been offered positions that have been gratefully accepted. Some members are still to be selected by the sponsoring societies. I want to express my gratitude to all members that have completed their term and have worked with competence and enthusiasm toward the firm establishment of Physica Medica as a very valuable journal for the medical physics community.

In 2002, four regular issues have been published: *Vol. XVIII(1), (2), (3) and (4)*. Two of these issues contain an *Abstract Section*:

- Volume XVIII(1), the Abstracts of the “4th EFOMP Workshop on New Technologies on Diagnostic Radiology: Patient Dose, Image Quality and Clinical Effectiveness in CT Examinations” (ECR 2002, Vienna, Austria)
- Volume XVIII(2), the Abstracts of the “41<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Societe Francaise de Physique Medicale”.

The following societies have adopted Physica Medica as official journal:

- EFOMP (European Federation of Organisations of Medical Physics)
- AIFM (Italian Association of Physics in Medicine)
- SFPM (French Medical Physics Society)
- DGMP (German Medical Physics Society)
- NVKF (Dutch Society of Medical Physics)
- LMEPS (Latvian Medical Engineering and Physics Society)
- SAMPS (South African Medical Physics Society).

In addition, 2002 saw the Journal recognized by the European Physical Society.

The journal home page ([www.physicamedica.com](http://www.physicamedica.com)) carries not only the indexes of the published issues (since 1996) but also the abstracts of the published papers (since 2000).

The current circulation of the journal is now about 1000 copies. This number includes all members of AIFM (Italian Association of Physics in Medicine), all members of SFPM (the Societe Francaise de Physique Medicale), research institute subscribers, individual member subscribers and complimentary copies.

### *Papers submission and turn-around*

Figure 1 shows the paper submissions in the last 14 years. There has been a favorable trend in recent years with the number of paper submissions increasing. The rejection rate is rather stable at around 30% (see Figure 2). The average return of the first review from referees to the author is now within 2 months and the average acceptance time is now less than 4 months. The actual publication follows within two months.

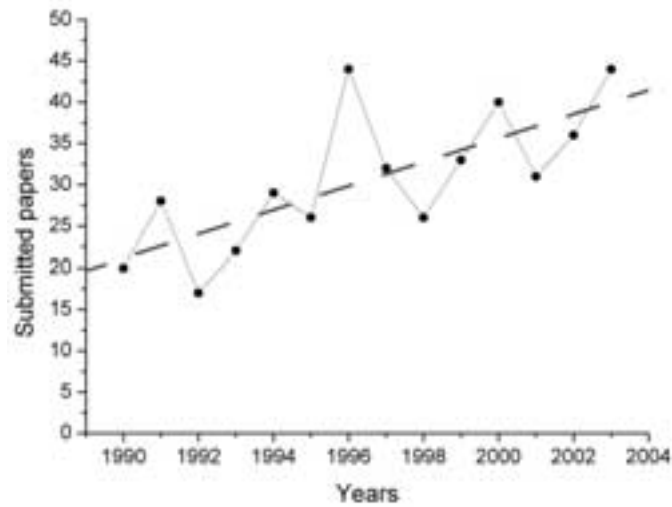


Fig. 1 – Paper submission. The number plotted for 2003 is an extrapolation from the submissions received as of March 31, 2003. (A linear fit is superimposed to the data.)

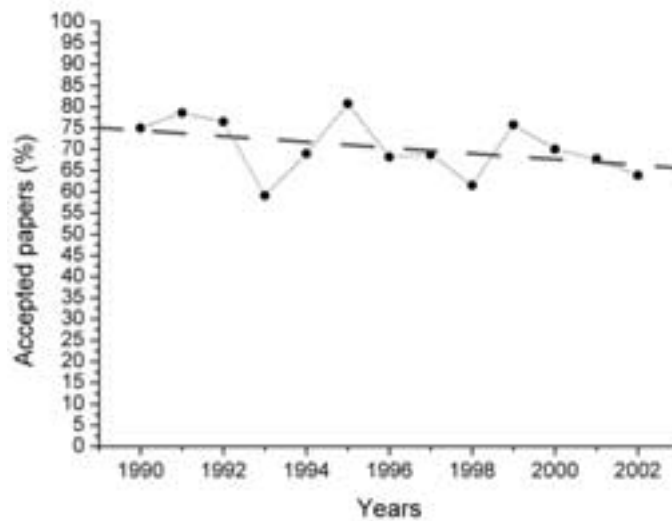


Fig. 2 – Accepted papers (as a percentage), as of March 31, 2003. (A linear fit is superimposed to the data).

*Indexing, Citation Index and Impact Factor*

Physica Medica is indexed in the following data bases:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| EMBASE                                   | (Excerpta Medica)                   |
| Current papers in Physics                | (INSPEC)                            |
| Physics Abstract                         | (INSPEC)                            |
| QUEST                                    | (private company data base)         |
| Biophysics & Biochemistry Citation Index | (ISI)                               |
| Science Citation Index Expanded          | (ISI)                               |
| Journal Citation Reports Science         | (ISI)                               |
| Research Alert                           | (ISI)                               |
| and partially in Index Medicus           | (National Library of Medicine, NIH) |

The Journal has had the IMPACT FACTOR since 1996. Figure 3 shows its positive trend in the last 5 years, as obtained from the 2001 JCR Science Edition. Table I summarizes some of the relevant data for Physica Medica.

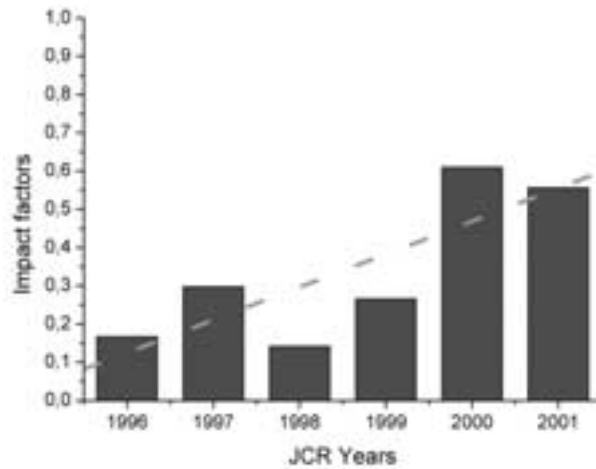


Fig. 3 – Impact Factor trend of Physica Medica (data from JCR 2001 Science Edition). (A linear fit is superimposed to the data).

Table I – Relevant data for Physica Medica (from JCR 2001 Science Edition).

Full Journal Title	Physica Medica
ISO Abbreviated Journal Title	Phys. Medica
JCR Abbreviated Journal Title	PHYS MEDICA
Impact Factor 2001	0.556
Subject Category	Biophysics
Total Cites in 2001	156
Cited Half-life (years)	4.4



Fig. 4 – The medal for the Galileo Galilei Award in Medical Physics: (left) front-side; (right) back-side.

#### *Physica Medica best paper*

The Editorial Board of PHYSICA MEDICA has decided to continue the tradition of assigning a prize to the best paper published in the journal. This prize is sponsored by the *Galileo-Galilei Foundation* of Pisa (Italy) and is called the *Galileo-Galilei Award in Medical Physics* (see Figure 4). The award is given every second year to the best paper published in the journal from those previous two years. The selection is made by the members of the Editorial Board by a voting procedure. The paper:

*A fast voxel-based Monte Carlo method for scanner- and patient- specific dose calculations in Computed Tomography* by B. Schmidt and W.A. Kalender, *Physica Medica*: 2002: XVIII(2); 43-53.

is the winner of the second edition (2001-2002) of the *Galileo-Galilei Award in Medical Physics*. The prize will be officially given to the authors during the Conference Dinner at the VIII Congress in Eindhoven on Thursday 22 May 2003 (<http://www.efomp2003.nl/>) and will consist of a medal and a certificate for each of the authors of the winning paper.

*Congratulations Anders!*

It is interesting to note that professor Anders Brahme, one of the long-standing members of our editorial board, has been selected by the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA), to receive the very prestigious prize (Akzo Nobel Science Award, Sweden). The prize is given to Professor Brahme for being engaged, since the 1970's, in developing and making research in methods, techniques and apparatus for efficient radiotherapy for basic cancer therapy. The prize jury at IVA particularly commends the interdisciplinary character of Anders Brahme's dedicated research work. Information on the prize is also available at [www.iva.se/akzo](http://www.iva.se/akzo) and at [www.ki.se/onkpat/radfys](http://www.ki.se/onkpat/radfys).

Yours Truly

Pisa, March 31, 2003

The Editor in Chief  
Alberto Del Guerra