

Technology-driven progress

Dear Reader,

If you have been following the recent changes, at editorial level, to *Functional Neurology* you must be aware of our striving to promote the advancement of outstanding neuroscience and the achievement of coordinated progress of technology, brain science and clinical neurology. If you have not had the opportunity to do so, I encourage you to read the editorial "Toward the connectomic era" (FN 2012;2:77) for a better understanding of where we believe integration of sciences will lead. It is in this context that *Functional Neurology* has also embarked on a technological overhaul of its operating procedures in order to help the scientific community divulge cutting-edge discoveries and encourage cross-fertilization between disciplines.

In an era driven by "scores" and "indices" that are used, to an extent, to "judge" the scientific output of individuals, groups and even universities, it is essential to offer a swift publication process of the highest standard. With this in mind, we (Egidio D'Angelo, François Boller and I) reviewed our submission, reviewing and publication process and commissioned the development of an *ad hoc* platform that will help us to offer a professional reviewing process, in line with the high quality standards and the pace of our times.

The new platform will be a step change in the overall process, assisting the editorial board in evaluating submitted work, performing timely reviews, and reaching editorial decisions. Designed by DoTech Web Solutions (UK) to specifically meet the requirements of *Functional Neurology*, the platform is programmed using the latest web-based languages to guarantee maximum flexibility. In fact, its modular building blocks will ensure that it can be kept in line with upcoming needs. Authors will be able to track the progress of their submitted papers online and editors and specialty editors will be able to manage their assigned papers from anywhere in the world because they will have the facility not only to log into the platform and check their work, but also to contact reviewers and authors directly from within the platform. This all-inclusive design, which uses pre-defined email forms, but also allows personalization of messages, will cut delays and allow faster throughput of papers to meet demand.

Another very important change, to be introduced as from the next issue (FN 2012;4), is the replacement of the current numerical Vancouver style with the Harvard referencing style (name, date in the text). Details are already available on the journal website: www.functionalneurology.com.

In the firm belief that these changes will help to raise the profile of *Functional Neurology* and contribute to the dissemination of important scientific work, we look forward to receiving numerous submissions. Our aim is to go on providing a space where the sciences can meet in a truly translational fashion.

Co-editor

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