

Acta dermatovenerologica Alpina, Pannonica et Adriatica

At the occasion of 10th anniversary

A. Kansky

S U M M A R Y

The dermatological journal the *ACTA DERMATOVENEROLOGICA ALPINA, Pannonica et Aadriatica (Acta Dermatoven APA)* has in fact a 28-year history. In 1974 J. Fettich and S. Bunta have started the Yugoslav dermatological journal (*Acta derm Iug*), which appeared during 18 years, four times yearly in Serbian and Croat languages. After the outbreak of civil war in former Yugoslavia it became clear that in this shape the journal had no future.

The then Chief Editor A. Kansky transferred the Editorial office from Zagreb to Ljubljana, renewed the registration under a more suitable name corresponding to the changed political situation and assigned to the journal a broader field of activities: additionally to the exchange of information it should induce and help the authors to prepare their manuscript according to international standards and to use strictly the English language. With the help of prominent colleagues from Ljubljana, Maribor, Graz, Trieste as well as others, the Acta Dermatoven APA started to appear in 1992 in Ljubljana, four issues yearly. The Editors had to cope with many problems, they managed however to survive and to enter into its 11th year of existence. The journal was financially supported by the then Ministry of Science and Technology of Slovenia as well as by advertisements, mostly from pharmaceutical companies.

In 1994 the journal was accepted into the information basis of EMBASE/Excerpta Medica and Biomedicina Slovenica. The Editors made efforts in 1993 and again in 1998 to be accepted into the information basis of Index Medicus and Current Contents, but did not succeed. They were however able to attract authors contributing manuscripts and readers in Southeastern Europe and in former socialist countries. Changes in the Editorial Office which are planned, are expected to exert an even stronger impact in affirmation of the journal.

K E Y W O R D S

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journal,
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Adriatica,
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The dermatological journal *Acta dermatovenerologica Alpina, Pannonica et Adriatica (Acta Dermatoven APA)*, which comes out four times a year in English language in Ljubljana has entered into its 11th year of existence. It actually evolved from its predecessor, the

Acta dermatovenerologica Iugoslavica (Acta derm Iug), reflecting in a certain way the economic, cultural and however political development in this specific area of Europe.

The project of founding the Acta derm Iug was real-

Table 1. Editors of the ACTA DERMATOVENEROLOGICA IUGOSLAVICA 1974-1991.

Years	Chief Editor	Editor(s)	Technical Editor	City
1974 - 1981	J. Fettich	A. Kansky	S. Bunta	Ljubljana
1982 - 1983	J. Fettich	S. Bunta	M. Kristan	Ljubljana
1984	J. Lalošević	S. Konstantinović, I. Dostanić, Đ. Karadaglić		Belgrade
1985 - 1986	volumes 12 and 13 are not available			
1987	J. Lalošević	S. Konstantinović, I. Dostanić, Đ. Karadaglić		Belgrade
1988 - 1991	A. Kansky	V. Čajkovac Ž. Pavičić		Zagreb

ized through efforts of three Slovenian dermatologists: J. Fettich was chairman of the University Department of dermatology, A. Kansky has returned from a one-year study spent at the NYU Medical Center in New York, while S. Bunta was a gifted organizer with adequate political connections. At that time the founding of a new journal was a daring and complicated enterprise, as many administrative and bureaucratic as well as financial obstacles had to be overcome. For such reasons many leading Yugoslav dermatovenereologists were rather skeptically viewing this enterprise.

Nonetheless the journal was started in 1974, appearing four times yearly. F. Kogoj contributed to the first issue the introductory words (1) Manuscripts could be for technical reasons submitted using the Serbian and Croatian languages, but texts in English were also accepted. The editors took care that all the published manuscripts contained comprehensive and structured summaries in English. The term of the Slovenian Editors expired by the end of 1983 and the editorial office was moved to Belgrade. While the volume 11 appeared regularly (2), during the following two years inadequate care was dedicated to the regular appearance of the journal. In the 1988 - 1991 period it appeared again regularly in Zagreb, as A. Kansky became Chief Editor (3). The names of all the editors and other relevant data are presented in table 1.

In the 1991 the nationalistic passions cumulated into a civil wars, although A. Kansky succeeded to edit all the four issues (3), it became clear that due to the new political situation the Acta derm iug had no future. He believed however that activities aimed at promotion of

dermatovenereology and continuing international cooperation in this area, were even more needed. For this reason he moved back to Ljubljana and was able to renew the registration with the Slovenian Ministry of Information. In his endeavors he obtained support of prominent dermatologists as H. Kerl (Graz) and his associates H.P. Soyer and S. Hödl, C. Scarpa (Trieste), J. Fettich (Ljubljana), M. Berčič (Maribor), G. Burg (Zürich), M. Lomuto (San Giovanni Rotondo) as well of some others. The name of the journal was discussed. In order, not to be obliged to undergo the tedious process of a new registration, the name *ACTA* was upheld, the words *Alpina, Pannonica et Adriatica* were chosen to designate the rather broad regional orientation.

As it often happens in turbulent times, some members of the then Section of

Dermatology of the Slovenian Medical Society were pessimistic regarding the future of the new journal and turned down the motion to act as publishers. For this reason on the behalf of the Slovenian Welding Society, its president P. Štular, generously gave his consent to act as temporary publisher.

In spring 1992 the first issue of the Acta Dermatoven APA appeared, it comprised 2 manuscripts on laboratory and clinical studies, 2 review articles and 2 short reports. The editorial policy was explained in the issue No.2. (4). As primary aims of the journal were declared an exchange of scientific and professional information, intention to help young dermatologists to prepare their manuscripts in English language, and also to promote understanding and an exchange of ideas between professionals of various nationalities. Reporting on regional

Table 2. Editors of the ACTA DERMATOVENEROLOGICA ALPINA, PANNONICA ET ADRIATICA during the period 1992 - 2001.

Year	Chief Editor	Editor	Associated Editor
1992	A. Kansky	M. Berčič, H.P. Soyer	
1993	A. Kansky	S. Hödl	M. Berčič, M. Lomuto, A. Pesarico, H.P. Soyer
2001	A. Kansky	S. Hödl	M. Berčič, M. Lomuto, M. Marschalko, M. Potočnik, H.P. Soyer, G. Trevisan, C. Veller-Fornasa

Table 3. Guest Editors of the ACTA DERMATOVENEROLOGICA ALPINA, PANNONICA ET ADRIATICA during the period 1992 - 2001.

Year	Issue	Guest Editor	Topic
1994	No 1-2	G. Trevisan	Borreliosis
1995	No 3	H. Hren-Vencvelj, M. Potočnik, J. Sölts Szöts	STDs
1996	No 3-4	R.R. Müllegger	Borreliosis
2001	No 4	R.R. Müllegger, G. Trevisan	Borreliosis

pathology and on border-sciences were also priorities.

October 17, 1992 the editors and members of the Editorial Board met in Hotel Savoy in Grado (Italy) in order to approve the editorial policy and the organizational concept of the Editorial Office. The first two issues were reviewed and discussed, the guide lines for the future activities were defined. The editorial policy as it was published in details in the issue No. 2 of the journal, was approved. A. Kansky was confirmed as Chief Editors, S. Hödl was appointed Editor, while M-Berčič, M. Lomuto, A. Peserico and H.P. Soyer became Associate Editors. T. Pahor was appointed as English reader and Mrs Melita Uran as responsible for design and setting for print.

During the following period the journal was coming out regularly, four times a year, the arising problems were solved primarily through joint efforts of the Editors, while members of the Editorial Board were also helpful. Sessions took place on the average two times yearly in Graz, Maribor, Ljubljana, Trieste, Grado and once also in Budapest. In 1995 the Dermatovenerologic section of the Slovenian Medical Society took over as publisher. In 1999 the Dermatovenerologic society of Slovenia was founded and it became publisher of the journal. In the same year the journal was embellished with a new design (5). The names of the Editors and further relevant data are presented in tables 2 and 3. During the 1992–2001 period 271 manuscripts were

Figure 1. The first session of Editors, October 17, 1992, Grado (Italy). From left to right: H.P. Soyer (Graz), C. Scarpa (Trieste), M. Lomuto (San Giovanni Rotondo), A. Kansky (Ljubljana), M. Berčič (Maribor), A. Peserico (Padua), S. Hödl (Graz).



Table 4. Numbers of manuscripts published during the 1992-2001 period according to the residence of the authors.

Country	Manuscripts published
Slovenia	80
Italy	66
Austria	46
Germany	13
Hungary	12
Croatia	12
Yugoslavia	11
USA	10
Switzerland	3
Holland	3
Denmark	2
Finland	2
Poland	2
Spain	1
Japan	1
Great Britain	1
Russia	1
Czech Republic	1
France	1
Slovakia	1
Latvia	1
Rumania	1
Bosnia	1

published, 64 being clinical, laboratory or epidemiological studies, 66 were reviews, 72 case reports, while the remaining were various therapeutical and other short reports. According to the country of authors' residence

80 were from Slovenia, 66 from Italy and 46 from Austria, while the remaining manuscripts came from 20 countries. The detailed numbers are presented in table No. 5.

The journal is covered by Biomedicina Slovenica and the M-base (Excerpta medica). Unluckily the two attempts in 1993 and 1998 to enter the information basis of Current Contents and Index Medicus have failed. An application for inclusion into its information basis was submitted to D. Lindberg, Chief Editor of Index Medicus, but the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee did not approve this motion. Following their advice to retry after 24 months, the editors did it, but were again turned down. A similar unsuccessful attempt was made in 1996 and b1998 with the Institute for Scientific Information Philadelphia). According to the replies obtained, the negative answers were mainly due to the insufficient number of citations. For this reason during the last two years the Editors are appealing to the authors and members of the Editorial Board to cite in their publications the articles published in our Acta. In this respect R. Schwartz (Newark) deserves credit, it remains to hope that others will also increase their efforts.

At the session of Editors in May the idea was put forward to reorganize the Editorial Office, the non-cooperating members of the Editorial Board should also be replaced (6). The present Chief Editor and the president of the Slovenian Dermatologic Society were invited to elaborate proposals for such a reorganization which should be discussed sometimes later this year probably at a joint session of members of the Board of Directors of the Slovenian Dermatologic Society and the Editors of the ACTA Dermatoven APA.

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