

EDITORIAL

IMAGE ANALYSIS & STEREOLOGY CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH INCLUSION INTO THE THOMSON REUTERS DATABASES

This year Image Analysis & Stereology (IAS), the successor of Acta Stereologica celebrates 30 years of its existence. To make the event even more festive we have received the best present from Thomson Reuters which has decided to include IAS to their databases. Miroslav Kališnik would certainly be proud and happy if he could share this important event with us! Acta Stereologica was his beloved child. I felt a great responsibility when he put the Journal into my inexperienced hands. It was my respect for Miroslav Kališnik that has stimulated my editorial work and helped me to persist with three issues per year of IAS published in time. The situation was very often nerve breaking, not only for me, but also for associate editors, especially Werner Nagel, who has helped me to overcome problems that seemed very often unsolvable.

Let me bring along some details from the history of Acta Stereologica and further of Image Analysis & Stereology.

The idea of Acta Stereologica was born in one of the biggest world known Karstic caves, the Postojna cave in Slovenia, during the Third European Symposium for Stereology, held in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 1981. At that time Miroslav Kališnik edited a national stereology journal Stereologia Jugoslavica which accompanied every year stereology courses that he held in Ljubljana since 1976 for participants from the former Yugoslavia. I was one of his first students. Gerhard Ondracek was the editor of Newsletter in Stereology. It was an agreement among Miroslav Kališnik, Gerhard Ondracek and Ewald Weibel that both journals should merge into a new journal that would be edited by Miroslav Kališnik. Then the ISS president Hans Eckart Exner approved that the new journal Acta Stereologica would be edited on behalf of the International Society for Stereology and would remain in ownership by the Stereological section of the Yugoslav Association of Anatomists. Stane Pejovnik was the editor, responsible for finances.

Gerhard Ondracek became the president of the Advisory Board till his tragic death in 1988, when Ervin E. Underwood took over this position, and in 1995 Yrjö Collan became the president. In 1996 Acta Stereologica became the official journal of the ISS.

Acta Stereologica was carefully edited by Miroslav Kališnik for 17 years. I would also like to give special credit to Zdenka Pajer, the Technical Editor, for her excellent and most devoted work. She was the key person without whom the journal would not exist. The Acta used to be published as Proceedings of the ISS Conferences

Authors were asked to prepare a copy-ready version of their contributions. At that time the offset technique was used. I still remember Z. Pajer who carefully edited every manuscript by putting stickers with letters over the original texts. She was overwhelmed with administration: she spent most of her time typing letters to ISS members according to the instructions of Miroslav Kališnik– both at the Institute and at home.

Miroslav Kališnik attended all the ISS Congresses during which he collected most papers and most reviews on the submitted papers. Maybe those times were not so quick and the research agencies not so demanding as they are nowadays? Most participants attended the whole conference, not just a few days, what has become a rule nowadays. Kališnik knew very well how to get the most out of his colleagues.

I still remember the late Ivan Krekule, during the party that lasted until midnight, saying: “I am leaving tomorrow; however, today I shall not sleep at all, because Kališnik has asked me to complete the review of one manuscript.” Kališnik was successful and the referees were very compliant. At the beginning of Kališnik’s career there were no problems with papers as practically everybody submitted their papers to Acta Stereologica. Later on he could cover without problems only issues published during the years of ISS congresses, while during the years, when ISS conferences did not take place it became more and more difficult to complete an Acta Stereologica issue.

Kališnik invited several colleagues to become guest editors of particular issues of Acta, e.g. Ervin E. Underwood, Vyvyan Howard, Nigel T James, J Woodhead, Yrjö Collan, Jean-Louis Chermant, John O Archambeau, Paul J. Mc Millan, Karsten Nielsen, Birger Karlsson, Richard Warren, Jonas Wasén, Ortwin Leder, Ivan Krekule, Ivan Saxl, Jerzy Ryś, Leszek Wojnar, John Bertram, Jakub Bodziony, Kurt Wiencek, Bente Packenberg, Harry BM Uylings, Jaap van Pelt, Piet Stroeven, and Geza M Timčak.

The final years of Acta Stereologica were quite critical: Miroslav Kališnik and Zdenka Pajer retired, the Technical Editor became Miran Gaberšček. With a great effort, Acta Stereologica has survived. It is still a treasure of stereological literature – from theory to biological applications and applications in materials science. I sincerely hope that we shall succeed to put all of the papers on the Web.



Miroslav Kališnik



Zdenka Pajer



Miran Gaberšček

In 1999 Miroslav Kališnik sent me to the 10th ICS in Melbourne to proceed with the Journal. Respecting his devotion and long lasting efforts to make a good journal out of Acta Stereologica, I accepted the position of the Chief Editor though I knew that I inherited just problems and difficulties. It was quite difficult for me, as I knew only a few people and could not proceed like Kališnik did it. Who would complete a review for me in one or two days during the congress? I could not require from others to do what I was not able to achieve myself. I started my own way that was certainly not the proper one for everybody. I decided to change the title of the Journal to Image Analysis & Stereology, change the cover page and the format and to introduce digital print. I have also tried to give a more active role to the members of the Editorial Board. I followed the idea to transform the existing congress proceedings (Acta Stereologica) to a real journal. To reach the final goal, i.e. inclusion into the Science Citation Index I was obliged to publish relatively good papers regularly according to the time schedule and have a sufficient number of pages to meet the requirements of the Slovenian agencies that provided most of the financial support to the Journal. With great effort and precious help of many colleagues I have succeeded to complete all the issues in time, however, it has been a nerve breaking period. Without the authors who have kindly submitted their manuscripts to a journal, which still had to gain an impact factor, voluntary work of referees and associate editors as well as the technical staff in Ljubljana Image Analysis & Stereology would never reach the present status. I am well aware that I would not have made it without the precious support of many colleagues, especially Werner Nagel, Leszek Wojnar, Dominique Jeulin, Piet Stroeven, Yannick Anguy, +Ivan Saxl, Dietrich Stoyan, Viktor Beneš, Luis M Cruz-Orive, Jiří Janáček, Terry Meyhew, Thorsten Mattfeldt, Mariusz Młynarczuk, Joachim Ohser, Markus Kiderlen, Vincenzo Capasso, Alessandra Micheletti, Joëlle Riss, Christian Lantuejoul, Boštjan Likar, Yrjö Collan, André Obenaus, Stanislav Nemeček and several others, especially the authors whose contribution I appreciate very much although I do not mention them by name. Unfortunately, in spite of several attempts to activate scientists from biomedicine Yrjö Collan could not wake up the by now still very resistant biomedical community, I hope that the present circumstances will help the new associate editor Karl-Anton Dorph-Petersen to attract more authors from biomedicine to contribute their work to Image Analysis & Stereology. I should also not forget the precious support of Jacek Komenda who has helped to bring the Journal to several important databases. Moreover, the Journal would not exist without the precious technical support from my colleagues in Ljubljana: Milan Števanec and Primož Peterlin, Aleš Kladnik, Tatjana Praprotnik, Miran Gaberšček, Samo Ribarič and Vita Čebašek.



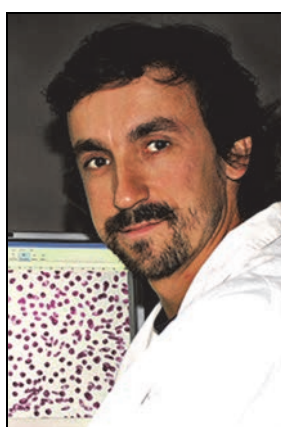
Milan Števanec



Primož Peterlin



Tatjana Praprotnik



Aleš Kladnik



Samo Ribarič



Vita Čebašek

Image Analysis & Stereology (IAS) is an interdisciplinary journal covering a huge field of scientific disciplines, the scope that a single person cannot control. During the 8th European Congress for Stereology and Image Analysis held in Bordeaux in 2001, the idea to introduce Associate Editors for specific scientific disciplines was born.

We have put all our efforts to the popularization of the Journal. In 2002 IAS was included to the Zentralblatt für Mathematik and Mathematical Reviews, in 2004 to INSPEC and METADEX, in 2006 to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), 2008 to SCOPUS, 2010 to Current Index to Statistics and EBSCO and finally this year to the databases of Thomson Reuters which will index all the papers published from 2010 on in Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch®), Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition and Current Contents®/Engineering Computing and Technology.

In 2003 we have established the journal's homepage with free access to whole text papers. In 2011 we introduced online submission of manuscripts through Open Journal System (OJS) and included the papers into Cross-References through doi numbers. We still need to complete the list of referees with their reviewing interests and find new and young enthusiastic colleagues who will be willing to proceed with what has been achieved.

I sincerely hope that the Associate Editors and my successors will succeed to keep the reputation of IAS, and will even improve it. There is a need to increase the citation rate of the Journal and to modify the Journal's title to give more emphasis to the stochastics. We are open to new suggestions for new ideas.

Editing the Journal has enriched my life with precious experiences: in addition to what I have learnt about stereology and image analysis, I have received some knowledge about the journal management and about the possibilities provided by internet. I have also learnt a little bit about public relations and the way how to cope with different human characters. I have met many dear colleagues engaged in different scientific disciplines, who have helped me to understand the complicated interdisciplinary research. Although I have hesitated whether to resign or not many times, I am happy that I have persisted and that I finally fulfilled dreams of Miroslav Kališnik. It is only a pity that he can not celebrate the 30th anniversary of the journal with us!

Let me close this short overview hoping that when I resign as the Editor-in-Chief, which will happen soon, the Journal will survive and prosper further!

*Ida Eržen, PhD, Scientific Councillor
Editor-in-Chief*