

## **INSTIGATION OF A NEW TRADITION FOR SCRIPTA MEDICA IN THE NEW MILLENIUM**

The Faculty of Medicine at Masaryk University in Brno began to publish Scripta Medica in 1922. This scientific journal was established with the aim of providing an opportunity for young researchers and clinicians to present the results of their theoretical or experimental studies to a broad medical public. Although it was necessary to overcome many difficult and unfavourable periods and situations, 71 volumes have been published up to now, with the recent issues striving to achieve a steadily increasing standard in both form and content. Scripta Medica has always been a journal covering all the scientific and clinical disciplines taught at the Faculty of Medicine in the pre-clinical and clinical years. It has also provided space for publishing various reports or abstracts of papers from related scientific societies of Brno presented within the framework of the Faculty.

The exponential growth of knowledge in life sciences, the development of new branches of science and their progressive differentiation and specialisation and the tremendous progress made in all medical disciplines in recent years have prompted the governing bodies of the Faculty to initiate changes in journal policy. From the year 2000, the standard of Scripta Medica should meet the demands of journals accepted by the international scientific population and be included in a wider range of abstract journals.

The principal idea of the new journal policy is to accept contributions from researchers and scientists of other Czech institutions as well as from abroad. Scripta Medica will remain a multidisciplinary journal with an emphasis placed on original, experimental studies and, occasionally, invited reviews from all disciplines included in the medical curricula. The broad range of topics published will be maintained but, in the future, the trend will be towards specialised issues, each devoted to one subject area. In addition, preliminary communications and case reports will also be accepted. Information related to the activities of the Faculty of Medicine in Brno, such as the abstracts of local workshops and meetings, personalia or book reviews, will continue to appear. The publication language is English, with the exception of short faculty reports which may be in Czech with English subtitles. The editorial board will be extended to include international editorial representatives, and foreign referees will be invited to cooperate. From now on, each volume will have 6 issues published bimonthly. The cover of Scripta Medica will undergo minor, formal changes in keeping with a unified appearance for all university publications.

The board of editors and the journal staff believe that all these changes will help to increase the scientific standard of Scripta Medica and its international prestige and will further cultivate the good name of the Faculty of Medicine at Masaryk University in Brno all over the scientific world.

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