

“Annals of Clinical Neurophysiology,” the new official English journal of The Korean Society of Clinical Neurophysiology

Jong Seok Bae

Editor-in-Chief, Annals of Clinical Neurophysiology

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Correspondence to

Jong Seok Bae

Department of Neurology, Kangdong
Sacred Heart Hospital, Hallym University
College of Medicine, 150 Seongan-ro,
Gangdong-gu, Seoul 05355, Korea
Tel: +82-2-2224-2207
Fax: +82-2-478-6330
E-mail: jsb_res@hotmail.co.kr

On behalf of The Korean Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, I am very pleased to present the first issue of Annals of Clinical Neurophysiology. This is the new official English journal of The Korean Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, and is being launched in January 2017 as issue 1 of volume 19. Since 1999 our society has published the Korean Journal of Clinical Neurophysiology as its official journal, and this has now been replaced by Annals of Clinical Neurophysiology, which is an international, peer-reviewed, open-access English journal (<http://www.e-acn.org>).

It seems that the boundary of clinical neurophysiology is now extending to novel techniques supporting all academic fields of clinical neurology. An experts group of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology recently officially defined clinical neurophysiology as “a medical specialty, or subspecialty, concerned with function and dysfunction of the nervous system, caused by disorders of brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve and muscle, using physiological and imaging techniques to measure nervous system activity.”¹

In this context, clinical neurophysiology is now both a specialized and heterogeneous field. Researchers in clinical neurophysiology may often encounter specific challenges that are not present in other subspecialties in clinical neurology, of which the greatest are the time and cost associated with transforming a novel technology into clinical utilization. In addition, researchers need to be trained in the correct interpretation of results after they have sufficient experience in data manipulation. However, basic concepts of a novel technique in clinical neurophysiology may remain difficult for some researchers to understand. It therefore appears that publishing and citing articles in clinical neurophysiology takes longer and requires a greater effort than in other fields.²

Another aspect, as previously commented on by one of the editors of the premier journal in clinical neurophysiology, is that many researchers from Europe and Asia feel that the

list of journals scanned for citations is biased toward US journals or, at least, toward English-language journals.² The Korean Society of Clinical Neurophysiology has been considering launching of new official English journal for several years in order to address this issue.

Annals of Clinical Neurophysiology will undoubtedly face intense competition from high-level academic journals that currently dominate the clinical neurophysiology field, in addition to the aforementioned two challenges. Some journals are moving from article-based publishing to electronic-only formats in order to promote both the rapid citation of articles and journal impact factors.

Mark Twain stated that “the secret of getting ahead is getting started.” Our society and I realize that this new journal is entering the field rather late compared to other journals, and so getting ahead of other journals may take a considerable

amount of time. However, The Korean Society of Clinical Neurophysiology and I will strive to make our new English journal an important additional platform for disseminating academic work related to clinical neurophysiology and related fields. I am very much looking forward to receiving excellent manuscripts from international researchers in the various subspecialties of clinical neurophysiology.

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