

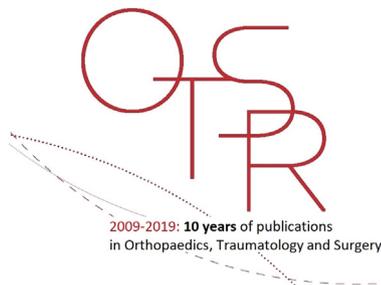


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Editorial



A decade already! Creating an international generalist orthopaedic journal in 2009 seemed contrary to the current of hyperspecialisation flowing through the field of orthopaedic surgery. And yet *Orthopaedics & Traumatology: Surgery & Research* (OTSR) is young, lively, and rich in promise. This tenth anniversary deserves to be celebrated (Fig. 1) in the company of our readers, both on our journal and on our website (<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/orthopaedics-and-traumatology-surgery-and-research/>).

1. Looking back

In 1998, the SoFCOT asked the APCORT (*Association pour les Publications en Chirurgie Orthopédique et Traumatologique*) – created in 1995 by Jacques Duparc and Ivan Kempf – to direct the publication of the scientific and didactic work conducted under its aegis, chiefly in the *Revue de Chirurgie Orthopédique (RCO)* and SoFCOT Instructional Course Lectures (*Conférences d'Enseignement de la SoFCOT*). The name “RCO” belonged to the publisher Masson, and the instructional course lectures were published by the *Expansion Scientifique Française*. In 2005, Elsevier purchased both publishing companies, thus becoming the sole publisher of SoFCOT-sponsored work.

In 2007, to provide the international community of orthopaedic and trauma surgeons with access to the work done in France, Jacques Yves Nordin, the then president of the APCORT, revitalised a two-decades-old proposal that the original articles published in RCO should also be available in English. The APCORT first considered being its own publisher, but rapidly realised that the resulting loss of referencing would be detrimental. Jacques Yves Nordin joined forces with Jean Michel Thomine, Philippe Beaufile, and Bernard Augereau to draw up a contract making Elsevier-Masson our publisher. This contract, which harnessed the remarkable potential of digital technology to drive the worldwide dissemination of French research while giving full attention to our shared interests, received the support of the SoFCOT's general secretary Thierry Bégue and



Fig. 1. Sharing a celebratory moment around the tenth anniversary cake during the General Assembly.

was approved and signed on 13 November 2008 by the General Assembly of the SoFCOT. *Orthopaedics and Traumatology: Surgery and Research* (OTSR) was born.

Thus, in 2009, the RCO became the *Revue de Chirurgie Orthopédique et Traumatologique (RCOT)* (published in print and online forms) for the French readership and the online English-language OTSR. OTSR is indexed and share the same editorial board.

2. Where we stand

A major goal was that the OTSR be an international forum for French-language articles meeting the quality standards of major international journals while broadcasting our specific orthopaedic culture and allowing comparisons to English-language articles from all sources in a climate of healthy emulation. Another goal was to preserve the French-language version of “our RCO” intended for our subscribers and for SoFCOT members. To achieve this dual objective, our French-language authors had to be provided with translation capabilities, with support from Elsevier. Another requirement was the establishment of a complex circuit for managing a dual French- and English-language publication within a single digital platform.

Have these goals been attained? The number of submissions has risen 4-fold in 10 years and about 25% of submitted manuscripts are accepted. Although the application of stringent quality criteria results in many rejections, another consequence, which is among the major purposes of our journal, is the provision to authors of strong support in the field of medical writing. Classes are organised, round tables held, comprehensive didactic articles published in the SoFCOT's *Newsletter* and *BOF*, and training offered to young

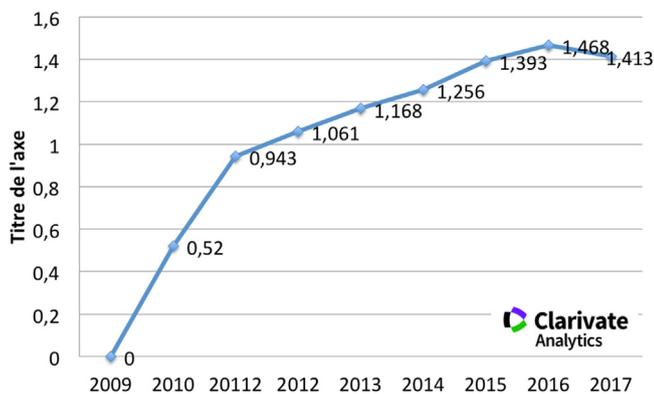


Fig. 2. The OTSR impact factor over time (Clarivate Analytics).

surgeons via the *Collège Français des Chirurgiens Orthopédistes et Traumatologues (CFCOT)*. We are very much aware that our journal can serve as a springboard for our young colleagues.

Although most of the articles are still submitted in French, the proportion of articles submitted in English has risen steadily and will soon reach 40%. This is a happy turn of affairs, as the bringing together of studies from many different horizons is inevitably beneficial.

The table of contents has gained definition over time, notably via the introduction of editorials in each issue, under the direction of the deputy editor Henri Migaud, with the goal of drawing attention to current issues or controversies. In addition, theme issues are now published to better meet the expectations of our highly specialised colleagues.

OTSR has considerably gained in popularity. The impact factor (IF) has increased steadily by about 10% year-on-year, from 0.52 in 2010, the first year for which an impact factor was published, to 1.413 in 2017 (Fig. 2). This steady climb is welcome, although the IF is increasingly criticised. In addition to the original articles published in the regular issues, the SoFCOT Instructional Course Lectures directed by Denis Hutten and the supplemental issue of the French Speaking Society for Arthroscopy (*Société Francophone*

d'Arthroscopie) contain a substantial proportion of the most frequently cited articles. Our hope is that we will successfully foster the considerable potential for further growth.

Although a detailed discussion would not be appropriate here, there is now general agreement that the IF fails to accurately mirror the attractiveness of an article. In the digital universe, an article can embark on its own journey without remaining anchored to the journal that published it. Many other measurement criteria are available. Among them is the number of downloads, which exploded in 2017, growing by 30% to 1 million, and thereby clearly elevating the journal to international recognition (Fig. 3). The rate of progression has been similarly vigorous in 2018.

Authors can use the OTSR website (<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/orthopaedics-and-traumatology-surgery-and-research/>) to track the number of downloads of each article, as well as many other criteria including visibility on social media and forums, all of which are accessible by going to PlumXMetrics.

3. Looking forwards

OTSR-RCOT is at a crossroads. The initial objective has been achieved. Should we now stay put? Broadening our editorial team to represent a larger number of countries might open up vast horizons. At present, the editorial board is composed only of French-speaking members (from France, Belgium and Canada). It could be expanded by recruiting editors from other parts of the world, notably Asia, which is now a major source of submissions. We could thus diversify our repertoire of reviewers, thereby attracting a new population of authors.

Success with this plan requires elevating the profile of the journal. Intrinsic quality is no longer sufficient. Communication is now key: with support from Elsevier and the SoFCOT we must make further headway in this area. Efforts are already under way: two webmasters joined our team this year, and close attention is directed toward fully exploiting the potential of digital tools such as websites and social media.

A strategy for disseminating the journal must also be devised. An important issue is whether the journal should move to the open access model; at present, the articles only become available



Fig. 3. Distribution of downloads throughout the world, establishing OTSR as an internationally recognised journal.

free-of-charge 1 year after their publication. Other choices will need to be made, such as whether to continue to publish a print version or to become an online-only journal.

These decisions of long-lived importance to the journal will be taken in concertation with our editor Elsevier-Masson, the APCORT, and the SoFCOT, of which *OTSR-RCOT* is the official journal.

We have travelled far, and yet ever vaster horizons are unfolding before us.

Finally, this editorial provides us with the opportunity to extend our warmest thanks to all the women and men who have contributed or still contribute, often unseen, to the success of our journal, as part of the editorial team, the APCORT, or Elsevier-Masson.

Long live *OTSR-RCOT*!

Disclosure of interest

Bernard Augereau declares that he has no competing interest.

Philippe Beaufile is Editor-in-Chief of *OTSR-RCOT* and occasionally acts as a consultant for Smith&Nephew.

Jacques Yves Nordin is a consultant for Ceraver.

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