

Letter from the (new) Editor-in-Chief

Dear colleagues,

It is a great challenge to take over the function of Editor-in-Chief from Norman Harden. During the past 5 years he has done a great job, strongly supported by Karen Dutro who did a lot of the handling of the manuscripts. I have asked Norman Harden to stay on the board as regional editor for the United States and I am glad that he has accepted this function. In this way, I will be able to profit from his longstanding experience.

Some words to introduce myself. I am a biomedical engineer who directly after his masters started to work at the Research department of Roessingh Rehabilitation Centre, one of the largest rehabilitation centres in the Netherlands. In this centre all kinds of musculoskeletal disorders are treated. In addition, Roessingh has special nationally acknowledged functions in the areas of rehabilitation technology and chronic pain, and also strong ties with the University of Twente.

During the past 20 years I have become acquainted with many aspects of rehabilitation diagnostics and treatment. I find it a fascinating area of medicine which is rapidly growing in importance, especially because of the growing population with chronic disorders. This growth demands a more effective and efficient rehabi-

litation treatment. The basis for this is evidence-based medicine and the vehicles to disseminate the knowledge gained are the scientific journals. As such, I foresee an excellent future for this journal. Especially because its focus – the back and musculoskeletal rehabilitation – is so very much at the centre of most rehabilitation programs.

I would like to strongly encourage all of you to submit your manuscripts to this journal. In this way you will contribute to make it a strong journal with a high impact on the community of rehabilitation professionals. From our side (myself and Diane Muller, who is doing a great job in all the logistic aspects of the review process), we will do all we can to increase the number of manuscripts and take care of a smooth and quick review process. In this aspect we are also rebuilding and extending the editorial board. If you are interested in joining this board, please let me know.

So, I would like to invite you to join us in these objectives and make *The Journal of Back and Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation* into a strong, important, clinically relevant, journal for the rehabilitation professional.

Prof. Dr. Ir. Hermie J. Hermens
Editor-in-Chief