

# Name change from Danish Medical Bulletin (DMB) to Danish Medical Journal (DMJ)

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Names are emotive and changing them is traumatic, not least because of the disruption that follows in the wake of such change. However, time has now come to change the name of the Danish Medical Bulletin (DMB). The DMB was established in 1954 and has been published without interruption ever since, though at variable intervals which have increased to one month over the past couple of years. The DMB was known for some decades notably for its publication of Danish DMSc theses, but the past two years have seen a change in focus owing to our decision to begin publishing original research in English in the DMB instead of in the Danish Ugeskrift for Læger [1]. In the near future, this journal will begin publishing original articles, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, clinical guidelines, protocol articles, PhD theses and DMSc theses (see instructions to authors). Moreover, we will further deepen our focus by also welcoming systematic reviews, meta-analyses and protocol articles. Our current impact factor (2010) has risen to 1.60 – the highest ever. It should also be noticed that our five-year impact factor has gone up to an impressive 2.33, which testifies to the ever more solid standing of the DMB in the scientific world.

In the early days of the Danish Medical Bulletin, our publication contained a mixture of original articles and different news postings from the Danish Medical Association, the Medical Faculties and the National Board of Health. In the first editorial, it was stated that the purpose of the DMB was reached by "... giving a survey of Danish medicine today in the form of original articles, short communications, annotations, etc." [2]. Having decided to broaden our focus to become a classical scientific journal without news posting from various sources as signalled by the name 'bulletin', we have felt that the time is now ripe to reconsider the name of the journal. We have therefore decided to change the name from the Danish Medical Bulletin to the Danish Medical Journal (DMJ), which better reflects the current and coming contents of our journal.

The DMB was established in 1954 by the concerted effort of the Danish Medical Association, the University of Copenhagen, the University of Aarhus and the Danish National Board of Health. The first editors were Poul Bonnevie, Mogens Fog, HCA Lassen, Niels Blixenkrone-Møller, and Richard Friedberg, and with Fritz Fuchs as an assistant editor. For many years, the DMB was distributed all over the world for free to medical schools, university libraries, teaching hospitals, scientific institu-

tions, medical boards, national medical associations, etc. The DMB is therefore probably one of the oldest open access journals. In its first editorial, the editors stated that the motivation for making an English-language journal was "And speaking one of the languages which less than one per cent of all people can understand, we Danes realize the linguistic barriers in this global exchange of experience and ideas" [2]. This argument has by no means lost momentum; on the contrary, the enormous potential in expanding our readership to the English-speaking world lies at the heart of our decision henceforth to publish original data only in English in the DMB and not in Danish in the Ugeskrift for Læger [1].

The name change will become effective as from the January 2012 issue. Yet, we will continue the volume indexing from the DMB. Taking over from volume 58 of the DMB, the first 2012 DMJ issue will therefore carry the volume number 59. Medline/PubMed and Thomson Reuters (impact factor) have been informed about this name change, which should therefore mean nothing to the continued indexing of the journal.

The journal abbreviation in Medline/PubMed will be Dan Med J and the web addresses to our homepage will be [www.danmedj.dk](http://www.danmedj.dk) and [www.danmedj.com](http://www.danmedj.com). Both web URLs will point to the same webpage. We will keep the URL [www.danmedbul.dk](http://www.danmedbul.dk) for some years and the URL will direct you to the same webpage where all previous contents from [www.danmedbul.dk](http://www.danmedbul.dk) will be available.

With this name change comes a welcome and appropriate resemblance to journals like the Croatian Medical Journal, the British Medical Journal (BMJ), the Irish Medical Journal, the Scottish Medical Journal, the Polish Medical Journal, the Chinese Medical Journal, the Singapore Medical Journal, the Asian Medical Journal, the New Zealand Medical Journal, the South African Medical Journal, and many more. We are confident that this name change will reflect both the rise in impact and the reorientation of focus and scope of our journal and that, despite the disruption it causes, the new name will be welcomed by authors and readers alike.

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## LITERATURE

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2. Bonnevie P, Fog M, Lassen HCA et al. Introduction. Dan Med Bull 1954;1:1.

## EDITORIAL

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