

Editorial

Forty Five Years of INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

The ideal goal of science is to record and share all useful research findings with others¹⁾. Peer reviewed journals provide a vehicle for this dissemination of knowledge, and the publication in which confers prestige on both the scientists themselves and the institute they work for. On the other hand, the technical production and publication of a scientific journal itself is also a challenging endeavor. In our current editorial, we describe the first 45 years of the international scientific journal INDUSTRIAL HEALTH, by examining the basic characteristics of Issue 1 from Volumes 1, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 45 which have been published between 1963 and 2007, respectively.

From a historical perspective, INDUSTRIAL HEALTH was first published in 1963 by the National Institute of Industrial Health (NIIH) in Kawasaki, Japan²⁾. On a practical level, the journal represented a continuation and expansion of the *Bulletin of the National Institute of Industrial Health*, which had been published by the institute eight times since its inception in 1958. In 1963, Dr. Masayoshi Yamaguchi, then Director-General of the NIIH and founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal, stated a desire to invite papers from outside researchers, as contributors to the bulletin had previously been restricted to those working at the NIIH. Following a name change and invitation for external contributions, the journal was officially launched in October of the same year. INDUSTRIAL HEALTH began, and remains to this day, a quarterly, peer-reviewed, scientific journal concerning all aspects of occupational health and safety for the modern world.

In its inaugural 1963 issue, the editorial board consisted of one Editor-in-Chief, who was president of the NIIH at the time, and four editorial board members. This number remained more or less constant in 1972 and 1982 (with 4 and 5 editorial board members, respectively), experiencing a slight increase by 1992 (8 editorial board members). By Volume 45 (2007) however, radical changes had occurred to the journal, with the editorial board now incorporating a multidisciplinary team from Japan and abroad, including an Editor-in-Chief, two Managing Editors, three Honorary Editors, 18 Advisory Editors, 29 Editors and one Editorial Secretary. All six Editors-in-Chief between 1963 and 2007 are listed below.

Editors-in-Chief, Since 1963

- 1963–1976 Masayoshi YAMAGUCHI, M.D.
- 1977–1985 Hiroyuki SAKABE, M.D.
- 1985–1991 Shigeji KOSHI, Dr.Med.Sc.
- 1991–1997 Sohei YAMAMOTO, M.D.
- 1997–2000 Haruhiko SAKURAI, M.D.
- 2000– Shunichi ARAKI, M.D.

From a physical perspective, INDUSTRIAL HEALTH utilized a monochrome front cover from Issue 1 of Volume 1 (1963) until Issue 1 of Volume 20 (1982), when a red cover was first adopted (Refer to Figs. 1–6). The journal's size was B5 until Issue 1 of Volume 35 (1997), when its dimensions increased to 'Letter' sized pages. These changes in cover layout, color and size were clearly evident by Issue 1 of Volume 40, and have continued since. By virtue of the updated format with larger page dimensions, INDUSTRIAL HEALTH was now able to fit 11 scientific articles within 65 printed pages by 2002, and 185 pages by Issue 1 of Volume 45 (2007).

From a content perspective, the first (1963) issue of INDUSTRIAL HEALTH contained six scientific articles written by Japanese authors and one news article. Two of the six original articles had been submitted by authors outside the NIIH. This relatively low rate of external contributors reflected the nature of the journal at the time and the fact that it was in a transitional period regarding authorship requirements. By 1972, three of the eight articles had originated from authors external to the NIIH. In 2003, an invited report on Japanese national occupational health research priorities was presented at the NORA (National Occupational Research Agenda) Symposium at US NIOSH, and subsequently published in INDUSTRIAL HEALTH³⁾. The continuing evolution and internationalization of the journal was clearly evident by 2007, when 11 of the 27 published articles from Issue 1, Volume 45, were contributed by authors outside of Japan, including authors from Sweden, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Turkey and India. An expanded range of article categories such as Editorials, Short Communications and Case Reports are now becoming more common in the new millennium, while special issues

of the journal are also being published twice per year. Issue 1 of Volume 45 for example, combined a regular journal issue as well as part two of a previous special issue on Heat Stress at Work.

In 2007, INDUSTRIAL HEALTH continues to play an important role in the worldwide collection and dissemination of scientific knowledge. From a global perspective, the research productivity of various countries has been reviewed elsewhere⁴⁾, suggesting that certain challenges still exist for the contemporary scientist. In 2006, the National Institute of Industrial Health (NIIH) and the National Institute of Industrial Safety (NIIS) were amalgamated to form a single, independent, administrative institution known as the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan (JNIOSH)⁵⁾. In the same year INDUSTRIAL HEALTH was added to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and to the Japan Science and Technology Information Aggregator, Electronic (J-STAGE), allowing free access to full-text articles on line. From late 2007, the entire archive of INDUSTRIAL HEALTH back issues will also be available online, free of charge. Now in its 45th year in 2007, INDUSTRIAL HEALTH remains essential reading for the new generation of international occupational health researchers, academics and practitioners.

References

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INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

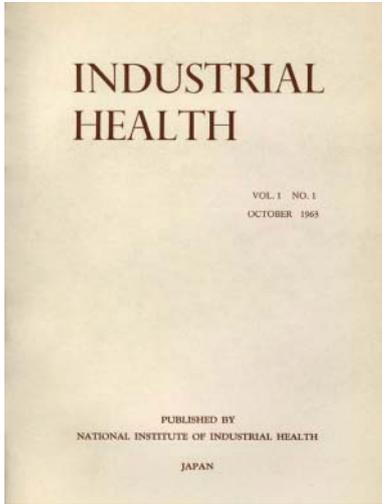


Fig. 1. Vol. 1, No. 1 (1963)

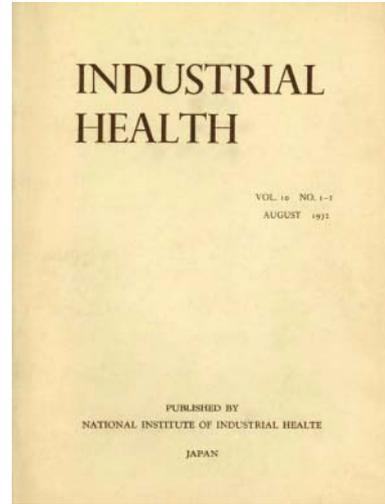


Fig. 2. Vol. 10, No. 1 (1972)



Fig. 3. Vol. 20, No. 1 (1982)



Fig. 4. Vol. 30, No. 1 (1992)



Fig. 5. Vol. 40, No. 1 (2002)



Fig. 6. Vol. 45, No. 1 (2007)