

Extended English version of our article in the “Bündner Woche”, April 1, 2020

## Research in Graubünden

### Knowledge transfer among researchers

Scientific journals serve as a platform for exchange of scientific knowledge

How are novel findings and methods disseminated in science? Exchange of scientific knowledge among scientists takes place in many different places: universities, research institutions, conferences, professional networks, and even on social media. Scientific journals, which are often specialized in one research discipline, are of particular importance. The first scientific journals appeared in 1665 in France and England, namely the “Journal des Sçavans” and the “Philosophical Transactions”. Today, “Nature” (since 1869) and “Science” (since 1880) are among the best known scientific journals worldwide.



*The “Allergy” team at Davos: Laura Alberch, Trevor Winstral, and Anna Globinska (from right to left). Scan the QR-Code to visit the “Allergy” website*

The general public rarely takes notice of these scientific publications. The fact that there are exceptions was demonstrated at the end of February 2020, by the following headline in the daily newspaper “Südostschweiz”: “The cry for help reached Davos directly from Wuhan”. The article reported on how the Swiss Institute for Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF), based in Davos, is involved in research into the novel coronavirus. The starting point for the newspaper article was a scientific study by a

Chinese scientist working in collaboration with SIAF, and was first published in the scientific journal “Allergy”. The study examined the medical predispositions of 140 patients infected with the novel coronavirus. Among other things, the results helped to identify suitable isolation measures for patients.

Taking “Allergy” as an example, we can summarize the publication process of a scientific journal. “Allergy” is one of three official journals of the European Academy for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). It serves to disseminate research and training materials in the allergy and immunology speciality. In 2018, Prof. Cezmi Akdis, Director of SIAF in Davos, took over the journal as Editor-in-Chief. He has implemented many changes that have positioned “Allergy” as one of the top journals of allergology and clinical immunology in the world. This has been possible with the

support of a Deputy Editor and 12 Associate Editors, as direct advisors to the Editor-in-Chief. In addition, “Allergy” has 52 Editorial Board members, who are located around the globe, serving as ambassadors of the journal. They expand the scientific network, write commissioned articles, share ideas with the journal, and serve as a final reviewer in cases of a dispute over an article.

The “Allergy” office is located within the SIAF premises. Laura Alberch, PhD serves as Managing Editor, Anna Globinska, PhD as Graphics Editor, and Trevor Winstal as Social Media Editor. Trevor Winstal maintains “Allergy”’s social media channels and website to increase the global exposure of the journal. Anna Globinska combines her scientific training with her artistic talent. She illustrates the magazine covers, and checks the quality of submitted figures and graphical abstracts. Together with the Editor-in-Chief, Cezmi Akdis, Laura Alberch oversees the manuscript publication process from submission to final print. She also improves the English of scientific articles and writes promotional materials for the journal. The most rewarding part of her job is experiencing firsthand the enthusiasm of the authors when their work gets accepted. Her advice for a successful publication: “Listen to the reviewers’ comments and think about their constructive criticism. Present your work in conferences as you often get feedback on your work, during the questions session or whilst presenting your poster, and it is a great way of expanding your network.”

Find out more about research in Graubünden: [www.academiaractica.ch](http://www.academiaractica.ch), [www.graduateschool.ch](http://www.graduateschool.ch).

Article written by Laura Alberch and Daniela Heinen



*Laura Alberch*



*Daniela Heinen*