

The Acta Anaesthesiologica Belgica

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The Acta Anaesthesiologica Belgica is the official journal of the Belgian Society of Anaesthesiology, Resuscitation, Perioperative Medicine and Pain management (BeSARPP), formerly known as Society for Anaesthesia and Resuscitation of Belgium (SARB). [in Dutch: Belgische Vereniging voor Anesthesie en Reanimatie (BVAR); In French: Société Belge d'Anesthésie et de Réanimation (SBAR)].

The journal was founded in 1950, initially as the official journal of the Section of Anaesthesiology of the Belgian Society of Surgery. It was only in 1964 that this section would become an independent scientific society. After World War 2, Belgian anesthesiologists felt the need for a national periodical on the specialty of anesthesia not only for the promotion of their specialty in the country but also for maintaining a good standard in postgraduate education. Before 1950, Belgian anesthesiologists mainly published in the national surgical journal, the Acta Chirurgica Belgica. Their meetings, too, were held as sessions of the Belgian Society of Surgeons¹.

Initially, it was a biannual publication, containing papers presented at meetings of Belgian anaesthesiologists, Dutch colleagues and invited guests. Papers were published either in French, Flemish or English. The issues gradually increased in volume, and occasionally special supplements were published. To improve the journal's accessibility worldwide, it was decided in 1973 to publish entirely in English, with summaries in Dutch and French. The journal became more popular with a rising number of submissions leading to an increase of issues to three in 1974 and to four from 1975 on.

Related to the growing need and ease of accessibility of digital content, the BeSARPP decided to stop with the printing of the journal and move to an open access online journal from 2022 on. Currently the journal publishes 4 issues per year (March, June, September and December)

and one supplement, specifically dedicated to publication of the obligatory Master theses authored by anesthesiology residents in order to obtain their certification.

Over the more than 70 years of AAB, several editorial teams have been active. Prof. Dr H. Reinhold from the University of Brussels had been the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) until 1973 and was succeeded by Professor G. Rolly from Ghent University. In 1977, an editorial board was nominated in support of the EIC. When Prof. Rolly retired, Prof. Dr. L. Herregods, also from Ghent University, took over, later followed by Prof. Dr. M. Vercauteren from University Antwerp and then Prof. Dr. V. Bonhomme from University Liège. Currently Prof. Dr. S. De Hert (University Ghent) is the EIC, supported by Prof. Dr. V. Bonhomme (University Liège) and Prof. Dr. M. Van de Velde (University Louvain) as deputy EIC's. In 2022 the editorial board was expanded with international key opinion leaders, who act as associate editors and handle manuscripts within their field of expertise.

The journal aims to provide up-to-date, practice oriented clinical research and contributions that will help the reader to stay updated and provide optimal care to patients. It welcomes submissions of original clinical contributions in the field of anesthesiology, perioperative medicine, intensive care medicine, pain medicine and critical emergency medicine in the form of original clinical studies, narrative reviews and systematic reviews with meta-analysis. Interesting case reports can be submitted as "letter to the editor".

The journal has its own website: <http://www.actaanaesthesiologica.be/> or can also be accessed via a dedicated link of the BeSARPP website: <https://www.besarpp.be/en/>

Currently, the journal is growing and attracting submissions and views and downloads from all over the world.

References

1. Rolly G, Reinhold H. The Acta Anaesthesiologica Belgica in: Anaesthesia - Essays on Its History. Eds. Ruprecht J, van Lieburg MJ, Lee JA, Erdmann W. Berlin Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag 1985, p. 427.

doi.org/10.56126/77.2.10