

grounds, someone else may well do it for us on harsh economic grounds, with consequences for independent progressive research in the field.

**Lars Linder**

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## Letters to the Editor

*Letters to the Editor* should be a vital part of a scientific journal. Despite careful evaluation by referees and within the Editorial Office, published manuscripts may sometimes rightfully be criticized because of, for example, faulty study design or wrong conclusions. Since our aim is to convey reliable research data, such criticism is important for the readers, the authors of the criticized article and our Editorial Office. Another type of *Letters to the Editor* concerns priority fights and omissions of references to earlier published relevant articles by other authors. Such mistakes, whether deliberate or not, represent bad manners but are less serious so long as published

data are correct. Priority fights like those now well known, especially in molecular genetics, are unheard of in orthopedics; the subspeciality of molecular orthopedics has not emerged, despite the popularity of the prefix *molecular*, to give a subject a touch of front-line research.

All *Letters to the Editor* in *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica* have by tradition until now referred only to earlier published articles. However, we also welcome Letters containing short reports with a simple message which is of interest for our readers but may not merit a full article, as exemplified on page 204 in this issue.