In September 1988 I had my first encounter with Finn Kamper Jørgensen when he was teaching health economics at the Nordic School of Public Health. At this time I was still head of a surgical department; but my Masters degree in public health some years later was influenced by Finn, resulting in a paper on principles for setting priorities in an ethically acceptable and still cost-effective manner.

Some years later, as a medical director of the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, I was invited to a Nordic network for health policy founded by Peter Hjort, Björn Smedby, and others. For a decade from the early 1990s, the Nordic network was run by Finn Kamper Jørgensen, and during this time we became good friends. I even visited his house in a small village outside Helsingør.

The Scandinavian Journal of Public Health had a prosperous time with the University of Umeå as host. In Copenhagen at the National Institute for Public Health under Finn Kamper Jørgensen, the successful development continued and the Journal achieved an even higher impact factor and reputation.

In the March 2012 issue, the Executive Board made a call for a new editor. After some deliberations involving the Executive Board, the publisher (SAGE), the Dean of the Nordic School of Public Health, and the previous editor, I was approached for the position; a proposition which I eventually accepted. My appointment was confirmed by the Executive Board in June 2012.

Today, the Journal is in a very strong position with the number of submissions steadily increasing. However, for authors, this may be seen as a disadvantage as it has led to longer waiting times to decision/publication and an increase in the rejection rate. However, the expected outcome of the increased flow of submissions and increased rejection rate should be an improved Scandinavian Journal of Public Health.

As the Editor in Chief, I look forward to working with all of you. The contents of the Journal are totally decided by your input. However, if I may express some preference, I think it would be interesting to include more scientific assessments of policy in public health.

Ingvar Karlberg,
Editor-in-Chief
Professor of Public Health
Nordic School of Public Health, Sweden