



Case Study

# The Power of Together

How IAC and Karger partner to empower cytologists around the world



HEALTHCARE





Dr. Fernando Schmitt is President of the International Academy of Cytology and Professor of Pathology at the Medical Faculty of University of Porto.

“ We know the people. We talk directly with the people involved in the journal and its production at various levels – and this is very good. At least for me, I prefer to have this kind of relationship rather than sending an e-mail to someone you don’t know and waiting for things happen.”

– Dr. Fernando Schmitt

” He is Editor-in-chief of Pathobiology, one of the journals of Karger, and Associate Editor of Acta Cytologica, the official journal of IAC. Schmitt is also director of the RISE Health Research Network and has authored more than 575 papers in peer-review journals and 47 book chapters. He is widely considered a world-leading expert in cytopathology and breast cancer. With Karger, Dr. Schmitt has served as a lecturer for selected Campus courses and has previously authored and published books.

#### **IAC**

The International Academy of Cytology is a scientific, non-profit organization of cytopathologists, cytotechnologists and other professionals concerned with research in and practice of clinical cytology. It was founded in 1957 in Brussels, Belgium.  
[cytology-iac.org](http://cytology-iac.org)

#### **From the eyes of a society**

IAC and Karger have teamed up for the long term to provide knowledge and access to pathologists from around the world. Dr. Fernando Schmitt, President of IAC and Associate Editor of Acta Cytologica, illustrates how IAC and Karger Publishers are forging the Power of Together for a bright future for cytopathologists all over the world.

#### **How everything started**

Karger and Schmitt’s relationship began in 2011, a pivotal moment when Acta Cytologica needed a new publisher. During that period, Schmitt took on the role of General Secretary for the IAC, a position he held until the previous year when he became President. Given the significance of this transition, Schmitt wanted to ensure finding the right fit for Acta Cytologica’s publishing needs. In the vast field of medical publishing, Schmitt had to thoroughly explore his options while also considering the quality of competitors’ publishers. After careful consideration, his search ultimately led him to Karger with the decision to form a long-term partnership.

## And how is it now?

The most prominent outcome, according to Schmitt, is the preservation and prestige of the journal Acta Cytologica. Founded in 1957, it holds the distinction of being the world's oldest Cytology journal, and Karger played a significant role in maintaining its standing.

## The Benefits of Growing with Karger

### Becoming more international

Karger and IAC's relationship comes with positive developments across the board:

- Higher International Reach
  - Acta Cytologica grew internationally in Karger's portfolio
  - Wider penetration in Europe
  - Increased submissions and dissemination
- Improved Quality
  - Better journal aesthetics and cover design
  - Enhanced paper quality and stats
  - Improved quality of figures within the journal
- Increased Impact Factor
  - After 1–2 years, Acta Cytologica's impact factor rose significantly
  - Achieved the 2nd place in terms of impact factor in the Cytology field

### Efficiency is at the heart of Karger

Efficiency is a core part of a strong publication. Schmitt and IAC's members are pleased with the rate of efficiency that Karger is able to maintain throughout the entire publication process. Although Karger is smaller compared to the other companies that Schmitt explored, he feels it is a strength of their relationship.

### Dealing with the generational change

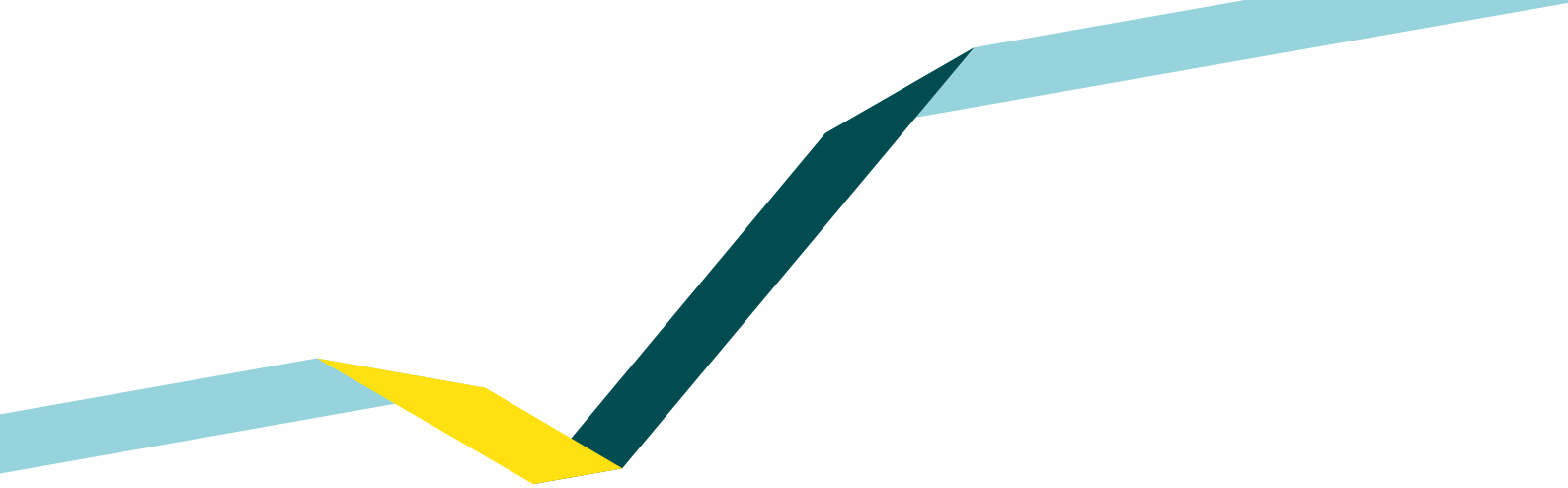
Schmitt had more than just the publication in mind when seeking the right partner for IAC, he was looking for longevity in the relationship. Karger provides additional services to accommodate a variety of specific needs, including **interactive eLearning** courses:

## About Karger

Connecting people and science since 1890, Karger provides scientists, healthcare professionals, patients, and the broader public with reliable and tailored information in Health Sciences. Building upon a publishing portfolio of more than 100 reputable scholarly journals and the award-winning Fast Facts medical info series, Karger excels in medical education and omnichannel HCP engagement in multiple formats, including 3D animations, podcasts, AR/VR environments, and more. Academic institutions and both medical affairs and pharma marketing teams in the corporate space entrust Karger with their most demanding communication challenges. Independent and family-led in the fourth generation by Chairwoman Gabriella Karger, Switzerland-based Karger is present in 15 countries with a team of 200 dedicated professionals worldwide.



**MORE INFO**



“ We conducted a study, and most of our members are over 60 years old... in 10 years or less, these people will retire and there are not enough people to replace them. We are taking this problem very seriously, and the way that you attract junior members is by providing courses. ”

– Dr. Fernando Schmitt

For instance, Karger has managed the resources to operate Acta Cytologica’s eLearning course titled “Essentials of Cytopathology”.

**In summary,** the partnership between the International Academy of Cytology (IAC) and Karger, initiated in 2011, has yielded numerous benefits for the field of cytopathology. This collaboration, championed by IAC President Dr. Fernando Schmitt, has not only preserved the venerable journal Acta Cytologica but also elevated its international reach and impact factor.

Karger’s efficiency in handling publication processes, coupled with direct and personalized communication, has been a key strength of this partnership. Beyond publication, Karger has contributed to the sustainability of cytopathology by creating essential eLearning courses to attract and train younger members in the field.

The IAC-Karger partnership exemplifies the „Power of Together“ in advancing the discipline of cytopathology. This collaboration promises a bright future for cytopathologists worldwide and underscores the importance of forging strong and enduring partnerships in scientific research and education.