

JNM Tops Impact Factor Rankings for Imaging Journals

The *Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)* has been ranked as the world's most influential medical imaging journal, according to new data released on June 20 in the 2008 *Journal Citation Reports*, published by Thomson Reuters' Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). For 2008, *JNM* earned an impact factor of 6.662, an increase of more than 12% from its 2007 statistic of 5.915 and more than a 33% increase from its 2006 ranking. The Thomson Reuters rating placed *JNM* ahead of other leading imaging journals, including *Radiology*, *Neuroimage*, and the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging*. *JNM* is the only medical imaging journal with an impact factor above 6.0 this year.

The Thomson Reuters ISI measures a journal's impact—or significance—based on the number of article citations compared to the total number of articles published. The impact factor—a quantitative measure of the frequency with which an article in a journal is cited—is used to gauge the overall influence of a journal within the scientific, professional, and academic communities.

"*JNM*'s significance as a professional resource continues to grow—even as the field becomes more competitive and the number and quality of imaging journals increases," said editor-in-chief Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD. "The Thomson Reuters impact factor is a quantitative representation of what we have been experiencing first-

hand over the past year. The number of submissions to the *JNM* continues to increase. This means that publication in the journal is even more competitive and more prestigious."

Journal Citation Reports also publishes an immediacy index for journals as an indicator of the speed with which reference citations to a specific journal appear in other peer-reviewed literature. *JNM*'s immediacy index for 2008 is 0.956, placing it in the top 3% of medical imaging journals. At the same time, the total number of *JNM* citations rose to more than 19,000—an increase of nearly 20%.

The impact factor has grown in importance as it has been integrated into metrics for academic evaluation (including those used in faculty promotion and tenure), first in Europe and now increasingly in the United States. Impact factors also provide librarians with a tool to effectively manage journal subscriptions and make judicious purchasing decisions. Under various corporate names, the ISI has presented quantifiable statistical data on journal impact and influence for more than 45 y.

"*JNM* has become a go-to resource for nuclear medicine and molecular imaging professionals," said Michael Graham, MD, PhD, president of SNM. "In addition, the journal continues to receive increased recognition by professionals working in oncology, cardiology, neurology, (Continued on page 15N)

Guiding JNM to New Levels of Success

Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD, who earlier in 2009 was appointed to an extended term as editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)*, is widely recognized as the driving force behind the journal's growing prominence in the molecular imaging and therapy community. Schelbert, professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine and George V. Taplin professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, formally accepted in June the SNM House of Delegates' request that he extend his term at the journal through 2011. He became editor-in-chief in 2004. In the intervening years, *JNM* has achieved international recognition and, based on its impact factor, is ranked as the world's most influential imaging journal (see article above). "It is an



Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD

honor to continue to serve as editor-in-chief of *JNM*," said Schelbert, who was a long-time contributing editor before assuming his current position. "Over the past 2 decades, we have made continual strides in bringing valuable scientific research to the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community. The studies published monthly in the journal represent cutting-edge research that is truly some of the best in the field, as validated through independent factors such as the impact factor ranking."

Changes and Consistencies

Schelbert's leadership of the journal has brought changes large and small to format and contents, all aimed at enhancing the impact, readability, and relevance of material. In addition to the inauguration of a vigorous online "publication ahead of print" program to ensure immediacy and advance significant discoveries, access to *JNM* is now available online without charge 6 mo after (Continued on page 15N)

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and other specialties. Molecular imaging and therapy are transforming the way in which patients receive health care. Advancements in the clinic are accelerating and novel discoveries are reaching patients at an increasing rate. The

value placed on *JNM* reflects this.” Graham congratulated Schelbert, the journal’s contributing editors and advisors, and the *JNM* publications and management staff at SNM on this extraordinary achievement.

SNM

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hardcopy publication. The look of the journal has matured under Schelbert’s direction, with a 2007 cover design change that provides more space for state-of-the-art images from featured articles. In 2008, *JNM* became a full-color publication, with color images included at no cost to authors and a text redesign that uses color for easier visual scanning and clearer organization of contents.

Changes in content under Schelbert’s tenure range from the introduction of the “In This Issue” feature, which doubles as a table of contents and briefly summarizes each month’s articles, to the inclusion of more invited commentaries and perspectives. “As the field of nuclear medicine has broadened into molecular imaging and molecular medicine, we know that our audience is becoming wider and more varied,” said Schelbert. “It is important to reach out to these new constituents—some of whom are members of entirely new areas of interest and exploration—by including a spectrum of perspectives and scientific approaches that address the growing diversity of both radionuclide and other molecular investigations.” Several special supplements to the journal have targeted these new areas of interest with a focused combination of review articles and scientific studies aimed at presenting comprehensive overviews not available elsewhere.

At the same time, Schelbert has been meticulous about maintaining consistently high quality in *JNM*. With

growing numbers of submissions from researchers at prestigious organizations throughout the world, the quality of articles selected for publication is enhanced. At the same time, the need for expertise in management of content also grows. “Quality is a collaborative effort in any peer-reviewed publication, and such collaboration is especially important for *JNM*,” said Schelbert. “From the careful critical assessments of the editorial board and contributing editors to the meticulous work of the editorial and production staff at SNM, each month’s issue represents the dedicated efforts of a remarkable and well-coordinated group on whom I rely and who form the real engine that drives the journal’s consistent success.” Schelbert has also preserved many of the time-honored elements of *JNM*, including the Newsline section, now in its third decade. Under his direction and that of Newsline editor Conrad Nagle, MD, this section has grown to feature full color and include enhanced literature and news summaries.

“As a leading multidisciplinary, international scientific and professional society, one of our primary goals is to promote access to critical and valuable information that helps shape the future of our field,” said Robert W. Atcher, PhD, MBA, immediate-past-president of SNM. “Dr. Schelbert’s leadership of the journal has resulted in a publication with a tremendous impact factor that provides outstanding papers on molecular imaging to scientists, physicians, and researchers.”✻