



JNM: Professional Fuel

If knowledge is power, then *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* is the fuel of our profession, highlighting significant, peer-reviewed research of interest to the nuclear medicine, molecular imaging, and therapy community.

JNM—with its worldwide circulation and high impact and immediacy factors—has to be considered the most important and influential international journal in molecular imaging and therapy and nuclear medicine. Published by SNM since 1960, *JNM* continues to present the very best, covering a broad spectrum of subjects from basic science and chemistry investigations to clinical studies, molecular biology, therapies, and advanced technologies, along with continuing medical education articles, invited perspectives and commentaries, procedure guidelines (recently, both PET/CT and SPECT), book reviews, and professional news. Its publication benefits its readers—researchers, clinicians, technologists, and scientists—who find a global forum for communicating important developments and innovations that significantly impact disease recognition, staging, and management.

With 16,000 individual and institutional subscribers, the journal's growing readership knows that its articles are consistently ranked among the world's most cited medical imaging research and that it is in the top 5% of other publications in its category and of the more than 6,000 publications rated by the Thomson Institute for Scientific Information's *Journal Citation Report*. ISI tracks scientific journals and provides detailed analysis of their usage and impact, presenting quantifiable statistical data to provide a systematic, objective way to evaluate the world's leading journals and their impact and influence. The impact factor is often used in academic evaluation; it is a measure of the quality and influence of the journals in which researchers have been published. Many institutional librarians rely on the Thompson report—and specifically the impact factor—when choosing to subscribe to publications (both print and Web versions) and even in placement of recent issues of these publications within a library.

JNM consistently ranks among the highest of more than 80 other nuclear medicine, radiology, and medical imaging journals in (1) “impact,” the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited; (2) “immediacy,” an indicator of the speed with which citations to a specific journal appear in published literature; and (3) total number of citations (14,203 in 2005). I believe the journal's strong performance—an impact factor of 4.684 and an immediacy index of 1.051—is due to its solid tradition of editorial independence; its high standards of

peer review and editorial quality (of the nearly 900 top-notch scientific manuscripts that the journal sees each year, only about 30% are accepted for publication); and its editorial board (consisting of more than 130 of the world's top scientists; more than half with doctorates).

SNM is fortunate to have Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD, professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and the George V. Taplin professor at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine, as editor-in-chief. His broad knowledge of nuclear medicine, nuclear cardiology, and molecular imaging adds to *JNM*'s stellar reputation.

JNM is increasingly valuable not only to its readers but also to its authors, with the number of manuscript submissions increasing (more than two-thirds originating from countries outside the United States) and the processing time from submission to acceptance and from submission to publication decreasing. Within the next few months, *JNM* will begin publishing articles ahead of print, shortening that turnaround time even further and thus speeding the rate at which this research is disseminated.

SNM's journals are also valuable to society members as revenue generators. Subscriptions from institutions and nonmembers bring in substantial revenue every year, subsidizing educational, public affairs, and other activities of the society.

JNM affects our professional lives and is considered “a 1-stop shop for high-quality articles that range from everyday practice to frontier developments,” has “well-written, well-reviewed articles with robust conclusions,” and offers a “concise reflection of the field,” according to last summer's *JNM* Readership Survey of physician, technologist, and scientist readers. In that e-mail survey, more than 9,000 *JNM* readers reflected on a variety of questions about the journal and the quality and length of its articles, the different sections, and its layout. As a reader put it, “Having both basic and clinical research published in the same journal is very important in understanding the crucial relationship between the two.” Described as an “authoritative voice,” the journal “packs an immense amount of information,” according to another respondent.

What's in store for the future? Accessibility to journal articles remains high, as the journal appears online on its



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<1 hour, corresponding to the ride home; 21 hours, corresponding to clearance of the radioisotope from the patient; and 8 days, corresponding to the persistence of small quantities of radioiodine in the home.

Radiation Protection and Dosimetry

RIT Approach Reviewed

In an article e-published on July 6 ahead of print in *Cancer*, Weigert et al.

from the University of Munich (Germany) reviewed literature and guidelines on radioimmunotherapy (RIT) with ⁹⁰Y-ibritumomab tiuxetan in patients with follicular lymphoma or B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. They surveyed the results of trials leading to the approval of the treatment regimen in the United States, as well as other current trials assessing efficacy in other subtypes of lym-

phoma, such as diffuse large-cell and mantle-cell lymphoma. Current challenges were reviewed, including how best to integrate this RIT approach into existing established treatment planning approaches. The authors also evaluated current recommendations and future prospectives and provided practical recommendations for patient management.

Cancer

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own Web site. In a recent development—and in response to changing technology that makes the Internet an economical and efficient conduit for delivery of information—the society's board of directors elected to make *JNM* an open-access journal, allowing full-text, online articles to be available for free 12 months after publication. This move expands the journal's audience to include medical researchers, physicians and other health care providers, patients and their advocates, students, and the global public. Such unrestricted access to scientific knowledge is bound to have a major impact on medical practice and on promoting the benefits of molecular imaging and therapy.

The first issue of a Chinese edition of the journal was published last month through a unique arrangement with Blackwell Publishing, and a Japanese version of *JNM* has been printed for about 2 years. The publication of these 2 language editions, overseen by editors selected from

JNM's review board, accelerates the journal's professional impact.

SNM has almost completed an archiving project, having scanned nearly 50 years of *JNM* issues, which will be available online before the end of this year. This will improve access to articles that are often still used and cited. Public relations efforts introduce published research to a wider audience every month. The journal is a valuable SNM member benefit, with new supplements being planned. One coming this year will focus on clinical PET/CT and patient care.

Where is the journal going in the future? *JNM* continues to parallel the society's direction: As the profession expands and merges with molecular biology, molecular medicine, and medical imaging, so too will *JNM* continue to follow and report those developments.

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