

JNM Earns Top Imaging Impact Factor

Thomson Reuters, publishers of the influential *Journal Citation Reports*, announced on June 28 that *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM)* has once again been ranked the top medical imaging journal worldwide. The new data covered the 2010 publication year and indicated that *JNM*'s international impact continues to grow. This is the third consecutive year in which *JNM* has taken the top spot, earning an impact factor of 7.022, up from 6.424 in 2010. This is higher than any of the 110 other journals in the imaging category, including *Radiology*, *NeuroImage*, *The Journal of the American College of Cardiology–Cardiovascular Imaging*, and *Human Brain Mapping*, which ranked 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively.

"*JNM* has held the top spot for 3 years in a row—a fact that reflects the journal's unflagging commitment to quality—as well the fact that it continues to serve as the go-to resource for professionals in the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging," said editor-in-chief Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD. "We are pleased to continue the tradition of excellence by remaining the most highly sought publication in medical imaging, in which experts from across the United States and the world seek to publish the most groundbreaking research of our day."

The Thomson Reuters Institute measures a journal's impact 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 scientific, professional, and academic communities.

The Journal Citation Report also publishes an immediacy index as an indicator of the speed with which citations to a specific journal appear in published literature. *JNM*'s immediacy index for 2010 was 1.079, up from 1.044 in the previous year. The journal's Eigenfactor metrics also grew in 2010 to 0.04731. These metrics rate the "total importance" of a scientific journal, with citations from highly ranked journals weighted to make a larger contribution than those from poorly ranked journals.

"*JNM* has maintained the number 1 impact factor spot, even as the number of journals included in the Thomson Reuters ranking has continued to grow," said Schelbert. "We are particularly proud that the journal continues to maintain a high level of quality, significant content, and wide influence during challenging economic times for all of medical publishing."

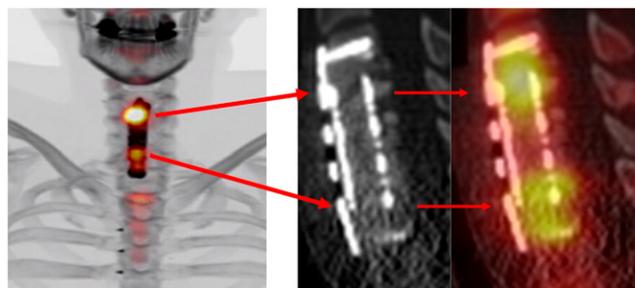


Heinrich R. Schelbert, MD, PhD

2011 Image of the Year

The highly anticipated selection of the 2011 SNM Image of the Year was announced on June 6. The image, from researchers at Stanford University (CA) and the Hospital Mãe de Deus (Porto Alegre, Brazil), illustrates the ability of PET/CT to identify bone inflammation in patients who have received spinal fixation hardware implants. A panel of researchers selected this image from more than 1,800 studies presented over the course of 4 d during the SNM 58th Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX. Each year, SNM chooses an image that exemplifies cutting-edge molecular imaging research and that demonstrates the ability of molecular imaging to detect and diagnose disease and to identify the most appropriate therapies. "This year's image demonstrates the clinical utility of PET/CT using the newly approved ^{18}F -sodium fluoride bone imaging agent to correctly pinpoint the cause of recurrent pain after surgical placement of spinal fixation hardware," said Peter Herscovitch, MD, chair of the SNM Scientific Program Committee.

Andrew Quon, MD, assistant professor of radiology, chief of clinical PET/CT for the Molecular Imaging Program at Stanford and lead author of the study, noted that: "The NaF PET/CT image shows the potential of molecular imaging for helping patients with a very common orthopedic problem, and it is available to patients right now. It's very exciting because it reminds us that the future of molecular



2011 SNM Image of the Year. Left: 3D multiple intensity projection PET/CT. Middle: CT. Right: Fusion PET/CT.

imaging lies not just in cancer imaging but in a wide range of disease processes beyond oncologic applications." The team's technique proved to be highly useful in highlighting both the structure of the bone and the physiologic processes involved in inflammation.

For this study, 20 patients presenting with spinal pain were evaluated with ^{18}F -NaF PET/CT at least 8 mo after surgery. A total of 24 bone or tissue abnormalities were found in 17 of the 20 subjects. Of the original 20 patients, 12 received exploratory surgery and 4 received local anesthetic nerve blockade. In >85% of cases, this form of molecular imaging was able to identify the exact source of chronic pain after spinal surgery.