The Annual Journal Impact Factor Saga

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The Journal of Nuclear Medicine Journal Impact Factor (JIF) has reached a new milestone at 10.057 and now ranks #3 among all imaging journals. This achievement should not be overhyped, but it does provide evidence for the high visibility of the published work. We are aware that the calculation of the JIF has changed. Clarivate Analytics announced that it was moving toward a future that calculated the JIF based on the date of *electronic* publication and not the date of *print* publication (*1*). Thus, citations of early content were included in the calculation of the JIF for 2020 and drops in JIF will invariably follow in 2021. However, the overall *JNM* ranking improved, and *JNM* is the #1 publication among all nuclear medicine and molecular imaging journals (Fig. 1).

This is a tribute to the great contributions of diverse scientists from all areas of the field. Three of the top 10 articles contributing to the JIF calculation describe advances in imaging instrumentation (*2–4*), with the remaining 7 introducing various important aspects of theranostics (standardization of image interpretation (*5*), new targets and probes (*6–8*), translational or clinical PSMA-targeting diagnostic studies (*9,10*), and therapeutic approaches (*11*)).

It is thus evident that theranostics and the search for novel and relevant targets remain at the forefront of nuclear medicine research. However, revolutionary advances in instrumentation will open new and exciting research opportunities. Similarly, artificial intelligence will find its way into the clinic through solidly designed clinical studies (*12*). The high JIF, with the associated high visibility of the journal, will continue to attract leading basic and clinical scientists from oncology, neurology, cardiology, endocrinology, infectious diseases, and other fields. Continuation of scientific growth and advances is a condition for the sustainable success of nuclear medicine, molecular imaging, and theranostics (*13*). With significant industry buy-in (*14*), we expect further clinical translation into powerful theranostic approaches that we will publish in our flagship journal.

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FIGURE 1. JIF: top 10 in medical imaging (June 30, 2021).