A significant achievement

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The latest Impact Factor (IF) data for 2013 have been released by the Institute of Scientific Information. Our top two speciality journals occupy places 6 (JNM) and 8 (EJNMMI) in a very long list of journals dedicated to medical imaging as published by Thomson Reuters Web of Science (WOS) 2014. By itself, this represents a remarkable achievement for the Editors of both journals, taking into account the intense competition and the respective “market” sizes of the representative fields of interest – an achievement which for EJNMMI has been consistent, progressive, and maintained for now almost two decades.

Furthermore, if one were to exclude the organ-dedicated journals from the top of this list, *Radiology*, JNM and EJNMMI would take pride of place as numbers 1, 2 and 4 among the 120 imaging journals, a magnificent outcome. This also underlines that the number of practitioners in a given medical field does not correlate with academic excellence. From this point of view, nuclear medicine, a small medical speciality, continues to lead proudly in the advancement of medical imaging science as a whole. Table 1 shows the impact factor and other relevant metrics of the nuclear medicine journals in WOS. If we consider European journals only, EJNMMI ranks first in the entire field of radiology, nuclear medicine and medical imaging, with the highest IF ever (Table 2).

It is now inconceivable that modern practice can do without some form of advanced medical imaging. Multimodality imaging is at the forefront of this development, with SPET-CT, PET-CT and now PET-MR. Imaging provides a quantitative regional assessment of the expressed phenotype of the individual patient affected by a pathology, more relevant than ever as one sees the multiplicity of genetic variations encountered even at the level of a single cell. Averaging molecular signals via imaging explain its success as a tool for management.

Table 1 Nuclear medicine journals in WOS for the entire field of radiology, nuclear medicine and medical imaging

ISI WOS 2013					
Subject Category: Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Medical Imaging					
	Impact Factor	Imm. Index	Eigenfactor	Articles 2013	Total cites
JNM	5.563	1.055	0.04187	293	21,301
EJNMMI	5.217	1.286	0.02555	196	10,737
Seminars Nucl M	3.130	1.425	0.00339	40	1,773
Mol Im Biology	2.869	0.671	0.00619	85	1,692
Clin Nucl Med	2.857	0.908	0.00493	119	2,899
J Nucl Cardiol	2.645	0.640	0.00603	89	2,544
Nucl Med Biology	2.408	0.752	0.00650	137	3,954
QJNM	1.724	0.459	0.00256	37	952
Nuklearmedizin	1.671	0.341	0.00121	41	519
Ann Nucl Med	1.507	0.274	0.00393	117	1,586
Nucl Med Comm	1.371	0.243	0.00459	152	2,263
Rev Esp Med N	0.938	0.288	0.00044	59	258
Hellenic JNM	0.925	0.212	0.00059	33	1,96

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Table 2 European journals in WOS for the entire field of radiology, nuclear medicine and medical imaging

ISI WOS 2013

Subject Category: Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Medical Imaging (Europe)

	Impact Factor	Imm. Index	Eigenfactor	Articles 2013	Total cites
EJNMMI	5.217	1.286	0.02555	196	10,737
Radiother Oncol	4.857	1.092	0.03163	305	12,480
Ultraschall Med	4.645	1.109	0.00334	55	1,332
European Radiol	4.338	0.722	0.03271	399	12,946
Med Image Anal	3.681	0.505	0.01017	91	3,925
NMR Biomed	3.559	0.723	0.01344	188	5,297
Contrast Media Mol I	3.333	0.926	0.00377	54	947
Phys Med Biol	2.922	0.533	0.04342	546	20,225
Strahlenther Onkol	2.733	0.530	0.00412	117	2,381
Neuroradiology	2.374	0.319	0.00811	166	4,806

Fig. 1 Number of annual submissions to EJNMMI

Whilst computing, instrumentation developments and design have led the progress in molecular imaging, there remain significant constraints in the availability and also reimbursement of the latest radionuclide probes, which now address major pathologies of our advancing and aging populations. Regulatory issues remain a major obstacle, since they tend to delay the introduction of these tracers to the marketplace and hence raise costs and reduce the appetite for such commercial initiatives. This is of great concern and impedes the progress of molecular imaging as a whole. Our patients deserve more and better from the relevant agencies.

In the meantime, the increasing number of submissions each year (Fig. 1) reflects the vibrancy of the field and the continuing success of EJNMMI.