The year for our new endeavor: 2015

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Thanks to the continuing support of the members of the editorial board, expert reviewers, and editorial team from Springer, the Japanese Journal of Radiology (JJR) is now making a good start in the year 2015. This journal received over 500 submissions in 2014, a rate increase of 20 %. Approximately two-thirds of these manuscripts and half of the accepted articles come from countries outside of Japan, and these figures indicate that the JJR has become a really international journal.

In order to keep the publications in our journal timely, we have had to reject many good papers that did not reach certain standards for publication, and this made the acceptance rate low: approximately 20 % in 2014. On the other hand, the full-text downloads increased strikingly: >40,000 in 2013 and >50,000 in 2014. The impact factor also increased slightly: 0.646 in 2011, 0.730 in 2012, and 0.742 in 2013. We awarded the most scientifically high-quality paper, selected by editorial board members, and the most frequently cited paper at the Annual Meeting of the Japan Radiological Society in 2014, and we will continue to do so. We sincerely hope that such awards will help to attract high-quality papers to our journal.

As you can see, the journal contents have changed in the current issue. In addition to the original articles, we are now accepting well-focused review articles of high quality. We are also publishing letters to the editor in order to promote understanding of currently published topics through discussion of the recent publications. We also include guidelines made by the Society [1, 2]. One in particular, dealing with the use of iodinated contrast media

in patients with kidney disease, was the first attempt to describe the side effects of contrast media in various stages of kidney disease and its management; this was made possible by the collaboration of the committee members from the Japanese Society of Nephrology, Japanese Circulation Society, and Japan Radiological Society. The shorter version in the English language is available in the official journals of these societies [1]. We expect our readers will find the review articles, letters to the editors, and guidelines useful. Hopefully, such new endeavors will increase the number of downloads and the impact factor in the near future.

We are also making an effort to expand our readership throughout the world. With strong support of the Japan Radiological Society, the journal's table of contents has been widely disseminated to the members of related radiology societies worldwide. For instance, all the members of the Italian Society of Radiology can see the full contents of the JJR on their society home page, and at the same time, we, the members of the Japan Radiological Society, can see the full contents of the Italian journal. Through such activities, we would like to expand our readership throughout the world.

Because of our endeavor to promote the JJR as a high-quality journal, we find accepting many case reports difficult. Since we are still publishing case reports, we receive many case report manuscripts; they actually constitute approximately half of all articles submitted to the JJR. Currently, the acceptance rate of case reports is quite low, approximately 14 %, compared to that of original articles, about 24 %. After long-term discussion about the scientific and educational value of case reports and the policy for handling them, we decided to accept only innovative and important cases that are worthy of publication [3, 4]. We would like to encourage those who plan to submit case

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report manuscripts to refer to our policy on case reports. As an official journal of the Japan Radiological Society, our policy of publication of an academic journal has always been the same as the aim of the society: promotion of radiology as science. We will continue to publish high-quality research and strive to improve our patients' health and well-being. We are always happy to accept such articles, which are important for our readership.

We are deeply indebted to the many researchers and scientists who have contributed to the JJR by submitting their best work. We also express our sincere gratitude to the reviewers and editorial staff members who have dedicated their time and provided professional expertise to the journal. I am confident that this journal will continue to make important progress in 2015.

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Editor-in-Chief

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