JJR: our next step

Nagara Tamaki¹

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We are proud of the tremendous progress made by our journal over the last six years. During this period, the *Japanese Journal of Radiology* (JJR), the official journal of the Japan Society of Radiology, has become an established international journal in the field of radiology. Following the renaming of our journal from *Radiation Medicine* to JJR, we have directed considerable time and effort into introducing our journal to radiologists and colleagues overseas. Thanks to the continuing support of the editorial board members, expert reviewers, and international radiology societies, there has been a continuous 20–30 % increase per year in submissions to the journal; nearly 600 submissions were received in 2015. Approximately two-thirds of the manuscripts submitted now come from outside Japan, demonstrating that JJR really has become an international journal. The impact factor increased again in 2015, to 0.874 (from 0.838 in 2014 and 0.742 in 2013), and we expect it to exceed 1.0 in the coming year, as the number of downloads appears to be significantly higher this year than in previous years. Our decision to stop publishing case reports from late 2016 on, as previously announced [1], may also help to increase the impact factor of the journal.

Fortunately, there appears to be a significant increase in the number of original articles and review articles that have been and are being submitted and published in 2015 and 2016 as compared to previous years. In addition, we have published a number of special articles in JJR, such as an attractive interventional radiology procedure guideline for critical hemorrhage in obstetrics [2], the diagnostic imaging guidelines of our society [3], and an article on primary

care of the acute abdomen [4]. Also, a recent history note on Thorotrast [5] highlighted lessons to be learned from that tragedy. In addition, we are fortunate in being able to publish an article written by the deputy editors of *Radiology* that affords useful insight into how the manuscripts submitted to that journal are processed, and which factors influence the decision to accept or reject manuscripts for publication [6].

Interactive discussions about the journal are also attractive. Last year, for the first time, we published a letter to the editor as well as a reply to it [7, 8], and we intend to devote more of our attention to such discussions of papers published in our journal.

Our associate editors and reviewers continue to expend great effort in determining the value of each submitted article and providing critical as well as educational comments. Due to the hard work of our editorial board members, reviewers, and editorial staff, the interval from the initial submission of a paper to its acceptance is quite short (less than 100 days). We have published accepted articles online within 3 weeks, and the printed version within 3 months. Thus, we publish articles rapidly in this journal. At the same time, there are a large number of papers that are immediately rejected by editorial board members because they are of insufficient quality for JJR. We advise authors when substantial corrections to the paper are required, and suggest more suitable journals for submission where appropriate.

A recent imaging journal editor meeting supported by Springer resulted in valuable discussions. Most of us believe in the importance of providing instructive comments and informative criticism from reviewers when a paper is submitted, rather than simply accepting or rejecting it. At the same time, all of us require high-quality papers to be submitted in order to improve the contents of

✉ Nagara Tamaki
natamaki@med.hokudai.ac.jp

¹ Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan

our journals. At the meeting, many of us made important comments in relation to improving reviewers' comments.

Finally, since I have now reached the end of my six-year period as Editor-in-Chief of JJR, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of all the instructive and rigorous work of the editorial board members of JJR and the wonderful and generous support of its editorial staff. I am confident that this journal will continue to make valuable progress under its new Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Yukunori Korogi, supported by new editorial board members.

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