Progressive growth in publishing and sharing medical science

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Five years after the publication of the first issue of *Clinical and Translational Imaging*, we can assert that the journal has achieved the goal of progressive growth. However, the relentless competition with many other scientific publications necessitates a strategy to maintain our pace of growth by publishing high-caliber papers and by making authors and readers more aware of the visibility and quality of the work disseminated in our journal.

At our most recent editorial board meeting at EANM'17 in Vienna the attendees raised numerous points in the course of open and fruitful discussion. Thus, in this annual update I would like to inform the entire readership about a few aspects that were highlighted during the gathering.

Starting last year, *Clinical and Translational Imaging* publishes topical collections rather than topical issues. As ever, all articles accepted following the evaluation by at least two referees are published online without delay, and readers interested in a particular topic can easily retrieve the relevant papers under the heading “Article Collections” on the web page of the journal. We believe this was a wise choice that allows continuous updates on all scientific and clinical areas, flexibility of issue content, and last but not least, timely publication of submitted papers.

We have recently modified our editorial policy and divided our review articles into three categories: meta-analyses, systematic reviews, and expert reviews. Furthermore, besides reviews, editorials, and spotlight articles, we are now seeking and publishing interesting pictorial essays. The latter include series of cases related to a specific topic, by means of which the heterogeneity of the observations that may be found in apparently homogeneous populations of patients is uncovered, thus highlighting the crucial contribution of

molecular imaging in those settings in which the workup of patients may be difficult without the use of PET, SPET, and other molecular imaging methods.

Due to our previous policy of publishing only invited papers there were very few rejections, but now, with unsolicited submissions, the number of rejections is increasing. In fact, we now have a constant flow of manuscripts to fill the bimonthly issues, demonstrating that *Clinical and Translational Imaging* is raising its profile worldwide. This visibility is confirmed by a steady increase in full-text downloads over the years.

A total of forty-seven papers were published in 2017, mostly from Europe and the USA, but also from other regions. These papers were accessible in almost 4500 institutions and the number of article downloads now exceeds 50,000 per year.

Approximately 75% of our readers access the journal either via Google/Google Scholar or from direct sources such as e-mail links or bookmarks. Visibility on the internet should encourage and increase the number of submissions, since potential authors, although driven by availability of their publications in conventional databases such as PubMed and Web of Science, are now becoming aware that a substantial part of the literature of interest, cited also in high-quality journals, is excluded from these traditional archives, but is present in the globally available Worldwide Web.

However, in relation to this, it is worthy of note that the Journal has been growing since its inclusion in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI); as a result of this, papers published from 2016 onward are included in the Web of Science database. This means not only that papers published in *Clinical and Translational Imaging* can be retrieved in searches carried out on this database, but also that it is possible to estimate the impact factor of the journal. For 2017 the IF is approximately 1.4, i.e., twice that of 2 years ago. With committed effort on the part of our editorial board, we are convinced that it will soon be possible to achieve an IF of 2.0, required for official acknowledgment in the ISI Citation Index database.

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Furthermore, the Journal is included also in SCOPUS, EMBASE, Google Scholar, ProQuest, Academic Search, ChemWeb, EBSCO Discovery Service, INIS Atomindex, OCLC, SCImago, Summon by ProQuest and PubMed Central (the last-named for open access articles only).

As for speed of publication, the time from submission to first decision is about 3 weeks and after that an average of 7 weeks is needed for author's revision and acceptance, while the final online publication process requires a further 3 weeks. Thus the period from submission to publication is currently about 3 months.

Clinical and Translational Imaging is a member of COPE, the code of conduct for journal editors. This means that the publisher monitors various aspect of the publishing process to exclude possible simultaneous manuscript submission to different journals, (self-)plagiarism, data/image manipulation, the fractionation of experimental results into sequences of papers ("salami publication"), and unresolved authorship issues.

Authors are required to seek and guarantee copyright/permissions, authorship, and (co-)author's/institution's consent; disclose any potential conflict of interests; and provide ethics statements on human and animal rights and on informed consent. These items are published in the main body of the paper. Trial registration should also be specified.

Major steps related to dissemination and legal sharing of the content of the journal have also been undertaken by Springer Nature. The option of publishing articles with open access is now chosen by approximately 30% of authors. The copyright of open access papers' remains with the authors, and the article can be reused in part or in full by anyone for any purpose, even commercially, in full compliance with the open access mandates of funding agencies.

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At the beginning of the 6th year of life of *Clinical and Translational Imaging*, the aims of the editors and of Springer Nature are clear: improve visibility and further establish our journal in the molecular imaging community as "the" review journal of the field, with a focus on systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

These goals can be achieved with a continuous flow of unsolicited submissions from a broad international community of authors; by inviting manuscripts from prominent basic scientists and clinicians; by ensuring timely publication; and by gaining citations to allow the inclusion of the journal in major databases.

Clinical and Translational Imaging is growing thanks to the commitment of its editorial board and, at Springer Nature, a dedicated and highly efficient professional team. Further developments are likely, yet strong and continuous involvement of the editorial board members is needed to speed the growth process by systematic dissemination of information on the journal throughout the international community.