Characteristics and editorial policy of Journal of Medical Ultrasonics (JMU)

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Season's greetings. I hope all of our members had a wonderful New Year.

Characteristics of JMU

The Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine's English journal, Journal of Medical Ultrasonics (JMU), has several characteristic features. First of all, the subject matter is always related to ultrasound. Second, the subject matter includes both basic and clinical medicine. I think JMU is one of the few ultrasound-specific peer-reviewed scientific journals in the world that covers both basic and clinical medicine equally. And I would like to further accentuate this unique presence going forward. Contrary to this, however, it is also a fact that the subject matter tends to become scattered in the case of both basic and clinical medicine, but I feel that this is an unavoidable consequence of the nature of JMU.

My area of expertise is clinical gastroenterology. Specifically, my focus has been on medical care and research related to diseases of the pancreato-biliary system. Reading scientific journals that specialize in the pancreato-biliary system in order to understand my place in this specialized area is practical and has a direct bearing on patient care in the clinical setting. However, it would be difficult to gain knowledge about the relationships with organs outside the field of gastroenterology if I limited myself to such journals. Today, one needs a cross-disciplinary understanding of fields outside of gastroenterology, such as an understanding of pathologies in the fields of neurology and endocrinology, in order to have a more complete understanding of gastroenterology.

JMU covers every discipline in basic and clinical medicine. Taking clinical medicine as an example, it is possible to gain a cross-sectional understanding of organs not only in the field of gastroenterology but also other disciplines with ultrasound as the common denominator. You could say that this differentiates JMU from all other journals. Going a step further, I think that JMU allows for cross-disciplinary awareness of both basic and clinical medicine.

Editorial policy of JMU

For better or worse, we cannot escape the spell of the impact factor (IF) if we wish to establish the position of JMU among the many academic journals around the world. It is very important that JMU gets noticed by researchers around the world by raising its IF. Doing so will result in a greater number of talented researchers submitting more outstanding papers to JMU, which will in turn lead to a higher IF.

I would like to describe one effort being made by the Editorial Committee to raise the IF. When a group of researchers would like to publish an English-language paper about their research related to ultrasound for pancreatic diseases, for example, they will do a search for the latest findings in their area of interest. They will search for relevant papers using a database such as PubMed. The papers with the information they seek are often published in various kinds of journals, which requires a lot of effort to access the full text of all of the papers. I think it would be very convenient if these were all published in one journal. With JMU divided into topics by field, the Editorial Committee will carefully select areas where the number of published papers is expected to increase going forward, and publish features comprised primarily of review articles. We will publish features incorporating topics in both basic and clinical medicine chosen responsibly by the members of the Editorial Committee. We are also planning to put together features in research fields that will act as a bridge between basic and clinical

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medicine. I would like to realize a journalistic style where the reader can learn everything about ultrasound when JMU is read from cover to cover.

The entire Editorial Committee will continue to make efforts to turn JMU, which is the face of The Japan Society of Ultrasonics in Medicine, into a journal that draws more

and more global attention. I look forward to your continued support this year.

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