

Brain Imaging and Behavior: A Message from the Editor

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Brain Imaging and Behavior, launched in 2007, has completed three volumes and the present issue represents the beginning of our fourth volume. I am delighted to report that *Brain Imaging and Behavior* (BIB) has been accepted for inclusion in PubMed, the National Library of Medicine's database of Medline and Pre-Medline articles. In addition, we were recently informed by Thomson Reuters that starting retrospectively with 1:1, *Brain Imaging and Behavior* has been selected for indexing and abstraction in Science Citation Index Expanded (SciSearch), Current Contents/Physical Chemical and Earth Sciences, Current Contents/Clinical Medicine, and the Neuroscience Citation Index. These are in addition to the citation databases already indexing *Brain Imaging and Behavior*. In the next year we will begin to see determination of an Impact Factor, which given the quality and timeliness of the recent and pending articles, is certain to grow in the coming years.

At this time, it is highly appropriate to thank Professors Erin Bigler and Martha Shenton who have served as Associate Editors and trusted sources of advice since the early preparation phase of the journal. Heather Pixley, Editorial Assistant, has been highly effective in keeping manuscripts flowing through the review process and with technical assistance to authors of accepted papers. Janice Stern, Senior Editor, Health and Behavior, Springer, has been very supportive of *Brain Imaging and Behavior* since its inception. Janice has done a great job of advocating for

and promoting the journal. In addition, the production group at Springer has also been remarkably quick at getting proofs to authors and papers published online.

Brain Imaging and Behavior has benefited from an exceptionally strong Editorial Board composed of distinguished scientists from a range of neuroscience and imaging specialties, who despite their other extensive commitments did not decline when asked to help initiate a new journal. We also are grateful to the authors who despite the newness of the journal submitted some of their best research to *BIB*. In addition to the authors, the quality of the initial volumes is also due to the expert reviewers, listed below, who provided rigorous critiques coupled with supportive advice for authors leading to clear presentation and balanced interpretation of emergent findings. Over 270 referees helped to enhance the scientific quality of the issues to date.

This has been an extraordinary time for multidisciplinary research exploiting the scientific potential of advanced brain imaging and related methods. Articles in the initial volumes have addressed numerous clinical conditions including Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders, traumatic brain injury, autism, obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, depression, alcoholism and other addictions, stress and HIV among other disorders. Imaging studies have encompassed all age ranges from children and adolescents to the young, middle age and older adult populations. In some cases developmental factors and aging processes were the research focus. Where some research reported on neural processes underlying normal cognition, other work has addressed the substrates of cognitive abnormalities. Domain areas have included memory, visual perception, language, judgment and motor function. Other studies have examined topics as diverse as aggression and violent video games, musical processing

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and eyewitness decision-making. Although most papers to date have focused on human participants, several reports involve translational studies of rodents and canines. The neuroimaging methods used to investigate scientific questions posed by authors also have represented a broad array of techniques including structural, functional, diffusion, perfusion and spectroscopic MRI, metabolic and targeted tracer PET and SPECT, ERPs and MEG. Brain connectivity has become an increasingly prominent topic with several reports addressing structural connectivity using DTI and functional connectivity using fMRI methods. Several articles examined resting state connectivity and the default mode network that is typically active during resting conditions relative to goal directed mental activity.

An important emergent direction is indicated by the increasing number of studies using fMRI and other imaging methods as a biomarker for assessing therapeutic response to pharmacological, surgical or behavioral interventions. As we move into the era of personalized therapeutics, imaging biomarkers can be expected to show increased application including image-guided treatment strategies. Another set of papers described novel algorithms and analytic strategies including automated morphometric analysis and validation studies. Looking ahead, an increasingly important topic is likely to be imaging genetics, which several recent reports addressed. To date, there has been one special issue, guest edited by Jack Van Horn and colleagues, that provided an

update on the impressive developments in brain imaging research in the Pacific Rim countries.

Volume 4 will continue the tradition of diverse applications of leading edge brain imaging approaches to important subject populations and problems in neuroscience. Articles included in the first issue address a broad array of topics including the temporal dynamics of working memory recruitment, neuroimaging characteristics of critically ill patients in the ICU, the influence of age of onset of OCD on basal ganglia changes, the relationship between atrophy and perfusion in frontotemporal dementia, sex differences in face processing, the relation between cognitive performance and DTI tractography in HIV-infected patients, activation during real compared to imagined sequential finger movements, manual versus automated hippocampal volumetric analysis in MCI and early AD, fronto-limbic interactions during overwhelmingly high working memory load, and finally disordered cortical functional connectivity during semantic processing in patients with schizophrenia or genetic risk for schizophrenia.

In summary, the first 3 years of *Brain Imaging and Behavior* has been a productive developmental period and we look forward to an exciting next phase as the Journal's impact expands.

Andrew J. Saykin
Editor-in-Chief
Indianapolis

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