

What is a Scientific Impact Factor, and Does the JOPR Have One?

One of the challenges in “growing” the *Journal of Prosthodontics* (JOPR) has been the attainment of a scientific impact factor (SIF). Now known as the Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports, the impact factor was initiated in the early 1960s to measure how frequently articles published in specific journals were cited (or referred to) in subsequent publications. Thomson Reuters began to publish this information in their annual Journal Citation Reports. Only the most prestigious journals are typically selected to have a SIF, and those with a SIF are compared annually—this provides a means for measuring your journal compared to other dental journals for a given year. In academics, we have known for years that many authors (particularly those from Europe) will not submit their manuscripts to journals without a SIF. Additionally, for promotion and tenure decisions, many academic institutions are now requiring that publications for consideration of tenure decisions must be published in journals with a SIF—and, that the SIF must be cited in the promotion/tenure package.

Thomson Reuters assesses journals continuously as to the number of citations, the “strength” of the Editorial Review Board (ERB), the rate of acceptance/rejection of manuscripts submitted, and other various measures of journal quality. The JOPR had been reviewed (once as a requested review from our previous Editor, and 3 years ago, without our knowledge) for a SIF, but until this week, we were not successful. After our notification 3 years ago, the journal office began making major modifications in the way we do business, in an effort to strengthen our next application (you can only apply every 3 years for a review). This included broadening our ERB to include many high-quality international reviewers, making modifications in the types of manuscripts we now consider, and making modifications within the journal to improve its appeal (a re-design of the cover, and re-design of the internal components as well).

I am pleased to inform you that, again unbeknownst to us, Thomson Reuters began tracking the JOPR in 2009. We have since been informed by our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell Publishing Ltd., that we have been selected for coverage in Thomson Reuter’s products and services, beginning with our 2009 issues. What does this mean?

First, it means *we will receive our very first Impact Factor in 2012* (based on the 2011 Journal Citation Reports rankings). This will give us the information we need to make further improvements in the *Journal*, and allow us to compare ourselves annually to a very prestigious group of elite publications—only 64 of hundreds of dental journals have received a SIF!

Second, the JOPR will be indexed and abstracted in the following:

- (1) Science Citation Index Expanded (known as SciSearch®);
- (2) Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition; and
- (3) Current Contents®/Clinical Medicine.

And finally, by obtaining a SIF, we anticipate that the number of manuscripts we receive from outstanding authors will continue to increase, as the JOPR provides a venue for critical review and appraisal of only the very best manuscripts of the highest caliber.

I cannot tell you how proud I am of our Managing Editor (Alethea Gerding), of our Section Editors [Drs. Steve Bayne, Hugh Devlin, Zvi Loewy, Galen Schneider, Cortino Sukotjo, Carl Drago, Sharon Siegel, Randy Toothaker, Debra Haselton, Larry Breeding, Brad Morris, and Ceib Phillips (Statistical Consultant)], of our outstanding ERB (all 58 of you), of our Manuscript Editors (Dr. Nellie Kremenak and Ms. Nancy Hunt), and of the outstanding publishing team we work with daily from Wiley-Blackwell Publishing Ltd. for this accomplishment. This is truly a milestone in the history of the JOPR, and one that I will always cherish. And a very special thanks to our previous Editors-in-Chief, Drs. Kenneth Stewart and Patrick Lloyd, for your diligence in continuing to develop and promote the JOPR, and allowing us to obtain the level of excellence for which we have now been recognized. Well done, all, and congratulations!

David A. Felton, DDS, MS, FACP
Editor-in-Chief

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