

EDITORIAL

New APJCP Impact Factor for 2012 is 1.271 - Time to Make a Major Effort to Break Through the 2.0 Barrier

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Abstract

The APJCP Impact Factor for 2012 is 1.271, returning from 0.659 for 2011 (1.240 for 2010 and 1.108 for 2009). For an Asian Pacific journal publishing over 100 papers a month from countries with very varied resources it is heartening and we thank all those who continued to submit papers and cite references in the APJCP through our difficult period. However, we still have very much room for improvement. As Chief Editors it is our shared responsibility to act for the benefit of the cancer control research community who utilize the journal in our region of over four billion people and provide a prestigious forum for publication of research findings which can be freely shared by all. The motivation for the APOCP/APJCP has never been financial profit but a firm financial base is nevertheless essential. Although we have kind support from the Korean National Cancer Center for our Managing Editor and the website, our ability to maintain our Chinese and Thai offices is totally dependent on the processing charges paid by the authors. In order to expand our staff to cope with increased submissions and provide greater assistance in ensuring comprehensive reference coverage and dissemination of findings published in the APJCP to the worldwide research community, a joint decision has been made to increase formatting charges by 50% from July. We ask for author understanding. In addition, we appeal to scientists to positively consider our requests to make their reference lists as comprehensive as possible, including papers from the APJCP where appropriate. The future of the journal and the APOCP is largely in your own hands.

Keywords: APJCP - Impact Factor - citations - formatting charges

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Impact Factor

The APJCP Impact Factor (IF) for 2012 is 1.271 is based on the total number of citations in the international literature, including the APJCP itself, of papers appearing in the journal in the years 2010 and 2011. The total number of papers published was 953 (349 in 2010 and 604 in 2011) and the total cites were 1,211, giving 1.271 by simple division. This signalled a promising return from 0.659 for 2011 (1.240 for 2010 and 1.108 for 2009) and we thank all those who continued to use the journal and cite references from its pages in our period of difficulty. We still need to make a great effort to increase the IF in the future, even if we are not going to try to compete with American journals like JNCI and Cancer Research (see Table 1) with their very high Impact Factors. While we would like to stress the 'general' impact factor of the APJCP in reaching out to the Asian research community and providing timely publication and free access to papers through PubMed and our website, the fact of pressure on researchers to publish in the most prestigious journals possible cannot be ignored.

Although loyalty and commitment to the APJCP is greatly appreciated, as Chief Editors we must understand motivations of authors and offer the best service possible.

Formatting Charges

The APJCP has seen continued increase in numbers of papers accepted for publication, from 49 in 2000 to 108 in 2005, to 367 in 2010 and 1,169 last year for 2012. If the present rate of submissions (we have noted a rise since learning the new IF) continues, we may be looking at perhaps 1,500 papers in 2013 and even more in the future. If at the same time we are to increase our IF we clearly need the active cooperation of authors, with help from the editorial team in providing lists of relevant published work in the APJCP. To increase awareness, a campaign will also be initiated to help make the international audience more aware of research results emanating from the Asian Pacific. For this purpose we intend to employ more specialised staff whose salaries must be covered by our formatting charges, which therefore will increase by 50% from July (papers due for publication in Issue 9).

As detailed in an earlier editorial (Moore, 2013) the rationale for the APJCP and its support for the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention, made up of all the scientists who make use of the journal for publication of some of their work remains clear. The measures we need to promote for the benefit of the only journal specifically catering to cancer control in all countries of the Asian

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Table 1. Comparison of Impact Factors in Cancer Specialist Journals

Journal Title	Impact factor 2012
J Natl Cancer Inst	14.336
Cancer Res	8.65
Clin Cancer Res	7.837
Int J Cancer	6.198
Cancer	5.201
Br J Cancer	5.082
Eur J Cancer	5.061
Cancer Prev Res	4.891
Cancer Epidem Biomark Prev	4.559
Cancer Lett	4.258
Cancer Sci	3.479
BMC Cancer	3.333
Cancer Causes Control	3.2
Eur J Cancer Prev	2.974
Nutr Cancer	2.695
Cancer Invest	2.238
Cancer Epidemiol	2.232
Jpn J Clin Oncol	1.898
Anticancer Res	1.713
Asian Pac J Cancer Prev	1.271
Bull Cancer	0.605

Pacific, independent of their resources, remain the same. The cooperation of authors in achieving our goals is greatly appreciated, as is assistance in our requests for rapid payment and provision of galleyproof comments to greatly facilitate timely publication. The aim is now to have a maximum of three months between submission and publication

Citation Policy and the Review System

The list of journals in Table 1 is dominated by publications housed in the United States and Europe. Only Cancer Science, the official journal of the Japanese Cancer Research Association and the Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology, with major support from Japan, have greater IFs than the APJCP for cancer journals within Asia. We understand if authors from Asia wish to use the services of the higher IF journals but hope that our policy to continue to accept as many papers as possible from the countries of the Asian Pacific, while naturally maintaining standards, will remain attractive. Given the freely available access to PubMed we feel that scientists can augment the value of their research, even in resource constrained circumstances, by ensuring that their citations are up-to-date and comprehensive. We do not expect or wish for preferential treatment of the APJCP in this regard, just a professional approach so that all relevant research is cited.

In the future strict criteria in this regard will be applied for acceptance of a paper. We fully expect to see over 20% of references cited from the last five years, including very recent examples, to emphasize the ongoing importance of the work published. In the case of Reviews the stress should of course be on the most recent evidence. We now have a team in the National Cancer Center of Korea who

have expertise in various areas within cancer control research and intend to set up a more effective review system, emphasizing how to improve papers rather than outright rejection, with the help of interested scientists from our region who are will to act as reviewers.

What we aim for in the future will naturally depend on the membership and new blood is essential for success in the future - including your own contributions! As always, once again thank you from the Editorial Team to all of the authors who have supported the APJCP by submitting their papers and scientists who have participated in our meetings. We look forward to your continued presence on our pages and in our conferences in the future.

Reference

- Moore MA (2013). Update on the APJCP and the APOCP in 2013 - What is going to be achieved in the future. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, **14**, 2151-3.