

Editorial

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Impact Factor

The most recent impact factor (IF) of the Journal of International Advanced Otology (J Int Adv Otol) is 0.735 (2018). It is more than two times than that in 2016 (IF=0.392). However, J Int Adv Otol has much more potential because it is an open access publication that is fully sponsored and owned by the European Academy of Otology and Neurotology and the Politzer Society. Although IF is not all that is important for medical journals, the editorial team cannot ignore this "monster." If a journal's IF becomes low, the quality of submitted papers would gradually decrease, resulting in less citations and low IF. Once the journal falls into such a vicious circle, it becomes difficult to publish important and valuable papers.

To get high IF, most journals accept review and/or position papers. Indeed, these papers are cited multiple times, such as more than 10 times per year, making the journal's IF high. This citation frequency is more than 14 times higher than that of an average paper published in a journal with an IF of 0.7. Requests for submitting a position paper or review article are quite effective for getting a high IF in a short time, however, such effects may be limited to being "acute and temporary." If publishing position and/or review papers are finished, IF would rapidly and easily become low.

To maintain J Int Adv Otol as a high-standard journal, publishing high-quality original articles is essential. The editorial team would sincerely request you to submit qualified papers to J Int Adv Otol. Papers reporting on important clinical questions, even if they do not report completely new findings, may be given high priority for acceptance. Unfortunately, I felt quite opposite when reviewing many papers with unique hypotheses that did not fully and carefully address the challenging hypotheses. To maintain the quality of J Int Adv Otol, we accept papers on carefully conducted studies that would be expected to be cited in future, but we cannot accept low-quality papers. The number of case reports may also be limited. I would appreciate if you could accept my apologies when conveying this bad news to the authors. These decisions have been made for the growth of our journal. I also thank reviewers for their careful comments and their precious time.

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