

## Editorial

### The Growing Impact of *The Journal of Pain*

**T**he *Journal of Pain* is set to embark on its 14th year of publication with steady growth and influence, an esteemed outlet for the presentation of distinguished pain research. By all accounts, *The Journal* continues to flourish. The current Impact Factor is 4.926, an all-time high. *The Journal* is ranked in the top one-fifth of both clinical neurology journals and neuroscience journals, and has become increasingly prestigious as interest among authors continues to grow. The number of new submissions increases each year.

We proudly continue to present research that tests and further develops pain theory and treatment, systematic reviews that summarize research and treatment findings, and commentaries that generate thoughtful discussion within the pain research community. Submissions are received from around the globe—from medical specialists, basic scientists, dentists, psychologists, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and other scientists who represent the American Pain Society's multidisciplinary perspective.

In recent years, submissions have increased by 15 to 20 percent every year. As more authors select *The Journal* as their publication outlet, we have not only increased our page numbers each year, but have also needed to become increasingly selective. Most authors receive an initial decision within about 4 weeks of submission, and we strive to publish accepted manuscripts as soon as possible after acceptance—most appear online within about 3 months of acceptance via *The Journal's* "Articles in Press" feature, available at <http://www.jpain.org/inpress>. After acceptance and page proof approval by authors, such papers are assigned a digital object identifier number (DOI) and can therefore be cited and retrieved. Most accepted articles appear in print within about 4 months.

In conjunction with Elsevier, we look forward to presenting special archived reading sections on *The Journal's* website, and provid-



ing technological offerings that are increasingly popular among segments of the readership. *The Journal* has become more active among social media outlets, including Facebook, mobile phone applications, and Twitter. In addition, each month, 3 articles from the monthly issue are highlighted on *The Journal's* website, including 1 article that is showcased as part of our Journal Club feature. The Journal Club article is presented with questions that mentors can use to facilitate discussions among trainees, and can be found at <http://www.jpain.org>.

While you are on *The Journal's* website, you can activate online access to your subscription, if you've not already done so, or request a trial subscription if you are not yet an APS member. You can also sign up to receive an electronic notification when new issues are released,

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with content that is tailored to your specific interests. You might peruse our gallery of cover images or browse through the *Papers and Abstracts Presented at the 31st Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Pain Society*; we received a near-record number of submissions for the 2012 meeting in Honolulu, and hope to have a similarly successful meeting this coming May in New Orleans.

*The Journal's* ongoing success and increase in overall status would not be possible without the skilled and generous guidance of our Editorial Board members and hundreds of additional reviewers—acknowledged at the back of this issue—who volunteered their time

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and provided *The Journal* with useful advice throughout this past year. The field of pain in general and the readers of *The Journal* in particular owe these individuals a huge debt of gratitude. With their continued assistance, I look forward to the continued growth and success of *The Journal* as a top-tier outlet for findings that advance our scientific understanding of pain and its treatment.

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