

EDITORIAL

State of the Journal—2010

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Each year I write an editorial to inform our readership about changes in the *Journal of Perinatology* and to thank our reviewers and the Editorial Board Members for their continuing efforts to improve the Journal. Last year I reviewed several important developments to the journal, including changes to the Editorial Board, new Associate Editors, continuing growth of the Journal in regard to manuscript submissions and the impending assignment of a Thomson Reuters Impact Factor. This year I will briefly report on the same issues and then append the list of last year's fine reviewers.

We have added two Associate Editors for Neonatology: Philip V Gordon, the Chief of Neonatology at Tulane, and Jatinder Bhatia, the Chief of Neonatology at the Medical College of Georgia. Dr Bhatia has added this role in addition to the one as the Supplements Editor that he took over last year. I am very proud that Aaron Caughey has continued in the role of Associate Editor for articles in the Maternal-Fetal Medicine field and that Arthur Eidelman has continued as our International Editor. All of the Editors review the initial submissions, determine the initial priority for publication, and decide whether to continue evaluating a manuscript for eventual publication. The Editors then assign reviewers and receive and evaluate the reviews, as well as edit individual manuscripts.

The number of new manuscripts submitted continued to grow last year, as we received over 600 original manuscripts for the 2009 calendar year. This growth is a 40% increase in new manuscript submissions when comparing the number submitted in 2006 with the number submitted in 2009.

The Journal has been indexed by the major electronic abstracting services for many years. Last year we were, for the first time, assigned a Thomson Reuters Impact Factor of 1.621 in the Journal of Citation Reports. The Impact Factor is an index relating to the number of citations to the published articles in a specific journal over the preceding 2-year period. As such, some individuals find this a means to assess the importance of a journal, although it should only be used with the knowledge of the various factors that limit the score's meaningfulness. For us, this was a milestone, as being scored will be viewed by some as an index of acceptance of the scientific reliability of the Journal, and as a means to compare with other similar journals. In regard to the group of pediatric journals receiving Impact Factor scores, our score ranks the Journal in the upper half of all pediatric journals receiving scores.

In sum, the Journal is continuing to grow and our Associate Editors are assuming increased responsibility for manuscript evaluation, resulting in maintenance of a reasonable review period despite this growth. Finally, the advent of a published Thomson Reuters Impact Factor is further demonstration of the acceptance of the Journal by the broader scientific community.

Conflict of interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

EE Lawson

Editor-in-Chief

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2009 Reviewers list

We acknowledge and thank the individual reviewers who have completed at least one manuscript evaluation (often several) during the past year (1 January to 31 December 2009). The *Journal of Perinatology* has improved dramatically by their generous contributions of time and expertise in the often anonymous task of reviewing the many manuscripts submitted for consideration of publication.

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