

2018 Editors' Commentary

Multiple Sclerosis Journal (MSJ) achieved an Impact Factor of 5.280 and the Journal is now ranked 22/197 in the Clinical Neurology category and 38/261 in the Neurosciences category. It has always been the ambition of Alan Thompson, the Editor-in-Chief, since he started with *MSJ* to get us over the five line; a goal shared by the other Editors. We are all delighted with the new Impact Factor. Now we must keep moving up!

As the readers may be aware, this is the highest Impact Factor the Journal has ever achieved. The increase is a direct result of the quality of papers published in the *Journal*, and we would like to thank the readership for your help in both authoring and reviewing papers.

In February 2018 we, the Editors, met in London for the journal's biennial strategy meeting. During this meeting we had an in-depth discussion about the future development and direction of the journal. Over the two days we discussed every aspect of the journal and it was clear that the (*MSJ*) benefits from the active support of a dynamic Editorial Board. We are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and engaged group of experts. Together we have reviewed the Editorial Board and we look forward to the contributions from the new members. In addition to the Editorial Board changes there have been several changes to the Editorial Team of the journal. Professor Jeroen Guerts is now Editor for Europe and has stepped down in his role as Controversies Co-Editor due to his increased responsibility. Dr Martin E. Duddy has stepped down as Topical Reviews Editor, Dr Alex Rae Grant has agreed to succeed him. Professor Matilde Inglese is now Co-Editor of the Controversies working alongside Professor Ruth Ann Marrie. Professor Xavier Montalban has stepped down from his role as Clinical Cases Editor, succeeded by Dr. Wallace Brownlee. Finally it was also evident from the London Editors meeting that there was an increasing awareness by SAGE of the value of a more integrated team effort on all fronts for the journal which we believe will add positively to the efforts of the editorial board.

In the last couple of months the journal has published many strong papers including the [ECTRIMS/EAN Guideline on the pharmacological treatment of people with multiple sclerosis](#) and Professor Bill Carroll's editorial "2017 McDonald MS diagnostic criteria: Evidence-based revisions". We are keen to pursue high quality papers from all areas of the multiple sclerosis field. Therefore we would like to welcome more papers on basic and fundamental science in order to support the content already published in *MSJ*. We also think it is important for *MSJ* to continue publishing papers in a reasonable timeframe. As a result we will be reducing the acceptance rate of the journal to lessen the time from online publication to issue publication. By reducing the acceptance rate we hope that the time to final decision will decrease dramatically (due to the increased rigor and decreased workload of the peer review process). This will also strengthen the quality of the papers published which should, in turn, have a positive effect on the impact factor.

Utilising the advice from the most recent Editorial Board meeting, the journal is now set up to receive videos (for abstracts or supplementary data) as part of a paper submission. All supplementary data for *MSJ* is hosted on Figshare which allows supplementary data to be viewed and accessed by a wider audience.

The journal continues to pursue special issue proposals so please do get in touch if you have a potential topic or idea. Similarly editorials are welcome and we hope that those we do publish are received by the readers with interest. The twitter account for the journal (@MSJ_Research) is increasing in influence and activity and we hope that those on twitter enjoy and engage with the account.

We believe that these changes will greatly strengthen the Journal and look forward to seeing the outcome of the new editorial structure, higher bar for acceptance and increased publication of basic and fundamental science papers. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our editorial board members for their continued enthusiasm and contribution to *MSJ*.

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