

# First impact factor of Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology

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The impact factor is one of the measures for assessing the scientific contribution of a journal. It is based on the premise that if the papers published in a particular journal are cited more frequently in the scientific literature that follows, then that journal has had a greater impact on the scientific field that it relates to.<sup>[1]</sup> Only research articles, original case reports, technical notes and reviews are considered citable items of a journal. Commentaries, editorials, correspondence/ letters to editors are considered non-citable. The impact factor basically is the ratio of total number of citations in the previous two years from the given year for which it is calculated, to all the citable articles published in those two years. From the above equation it is clear that the reduction in the number of citable articles in the denominator will increase the impact factor. Consequently, editorial board is compelled to look for priority among the citable articles they receive. Lack of originality in the citable articles may reduce the impact factor. Hence, the editorial board prepares manuscripts with high priority that earns good impact. The editors generally restrict the number of review and original articles unless they are of exceptionally high standard.

Basic science subjects like Biochemistry, Cell biology and Immunology have a very high impact factor, whereas the specialty journals have lesser impact factor. The *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* which publishes articles related to basic cutaneous research has the highest impact factor amongst the dermatology journals. Similarly, sub-specialty journal cannot be compared with its parent specialty journal for its impact factor. For example, *Contact Dermatitis or Pediatric Dermatology* journal cannot be compared with the *Archives of Dermatology* or *British Journal of Dermatology*.

Impact factor of a journal is periodically monitored by an organization called Thomson Reuters [formerly International Scientific Institute (ISI)], Philadelphia, founded by Eugene Garfield. In 2009, Journal Citation Reports (JCR) Science edition from Thomson Reuters included 68 journals from India. The *Journal of Biosciences* was the topmost with an impact factor of 1.956. Amongst the biomedical journals from India, *Indian Journal of Medical Research* was the topmost with an impact factor of 1.516 and was ranked number two in the hierarchy of journals listed in this report from India [Table 1]. Following *Indian Journal of*

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**Table 1: Ranking of top 10 biomedical journals as per 2009 JCR science edition**

Rank	Name of the journal	Impact factor
1	Indian Journal of Medical Research	1.516
2	Journal of Postgraduate Medicine	1.389
3	Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology	0.976
4	Indian Pediatrics	0.962
5	Neurology India	0.796
6	Journal of Genetics	0.762
7	National Medical Journal of India	0.685
8	Indian Journal of Biochemistry Biophysics	0.574
9	Indian Journal of Experimental Biology	0.550
10	Indian Journal of Pediatrics	0.539

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*Medical Research*, the second biomedical journal from the top was *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine* (impact factor 1.389) and the third one was *Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology* (impact factor 0.976). It is a matter of rejoice and pride for me as well as IADVL members that in its first year of appearance in JCR,<sup>[2]</sup> the journal has reached to this level.

I thank the contributors, editors and our publisher, Medknow Publications, for their efforts to improve the quality of this journal and achieving the first good impact factor of 0.976 for *IJDVL*.

A large part of the success of the *IJDVL* has been due to the persevering efforts of Dr. DK Sahu and his dedicated team at Medknow Publications and Media Pvt. Ltd. The *IJDVL* manuscript submission site is being upgraded continuously by them and I am sure you must be happy with the new looks of the website. Now articles are not accepted directly as done earlier. They follow the path of pre-acceptance during which edited articles are proof-read by authors and related queries are answered. During this phase, one can also upload the high resolution images. It is now possible during new article submission time itself to upload the images of 4 MB size, thus avoiding the need of re-submission of high resolution images later on. Now, in the table of contents, most cited, most downloaded and search pages have become common features. Some of the articles have been labeled as "Popular" articles. Website has been optimized for mobile devices.

My thanks are due to all our sponsors for the 2010 print version, especially Gracewell, Galderma India Pvt. Ltd.,

Glaxo SmithKline (GSK), Dr. Reddy's laboratories Ltd. and Timpac Health Care Pvt. Ltd., for their financial backing of this scientific activity. Special thanks to Systopic Labs Pvt. Ltd. for sponsoring mailing of *IJDVL* to our IADVL members and Galderma India Pvt. Ltd. for sponsoring the website [www.ijdv.com](http://www.ijdv.com).

I take this opportunity to congratulate Drs. Sujay Khandpur, Vinod K Sharma, Alpana Sharma, Gaurav Pathria, and Abhigyan Satyam, authors of the original article titled "Comparison of enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay test with immunoblot assay in the diagnosis of pemphigus in Indian patients", for winning the Bishnupriya Devi Award for best paper published in *IJDVL* during the year 2010. I also congratulate Drs. Nilendu Sarma and Sanjay Ghosh, authors of the article "Clinico-allergological pattern of allergic contact dermatitis among 70 Indian children", for winning the Indubala Memorial Award for best paper published in *IJDVL* in 2010 in the subject of occupational/contact dermatitis. Last but not the least, I thank all the contributors for their unstinted support during the year, which is pivotal to the continued success of our journal.

I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

## REFERENCES

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2. Khopkar U. *IJDVL* gets into the Science Citation Index Expanded! *Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol* 2008;74:1.

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