

EDITORIAL

Open Access



The changing comet

Paolo Martelletti

Our usual virtual June meeting has arrived. This year we can see a number of positive trends: more and higher quality submissions, an explosion in the downloaded paper numbers, hyperactive social media, and finally a slight but significant increase in the Impact Factor.

Since 2008 the Impact Factor has doubled, and is now the highest it has been since the journal launched: 3.580. We are now in the first quartile of Clinical Neurology journals. The journal also demonstrated solid scientific relationships with other journals in the field, with citations both to and from a broad spectrum of journals.

We are still confident in the foundation of the journal: a historic act, driven by a desire to serve, rather than hubris. This can still be seen in the daily interaction between SpringerNature Editorial Office, and the affiliated scientific societies; favoring the speediness of interactions among authors and reviewers, and awarding ideas and quality.

The journal has never aimed to be an archetype, only a megaphone for every scientist involved in headache research. Our growth has surely benefited from a European history made by giants, but in time we have stepped down their shoulders with courage, despite some trepidation. Needless to say, being a whisker from the top is a pleasure mitigated only by the awareness that such positions, once reached, must be maintained or increased.

Our success doesn't depend on single very highly-cited articles, and we don't want it to [1]. We can now see the success of our approach, and the promise of an innovative product has completed its path. The comet-like distribution of scientific journals has changed [2]: the historic obstacles in the nucleus have melted, and the comet now contains a new resident, *The Journal of Headache and Pain*.

Competing interests

The author declares that he has no competing interests.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Received: 16 June 2017 Accepted: 21 June 2017

Published online: 28 June 2017

References

1. Martelletti P (2013) An unaddicted impact factor. *J Headache Pain* 14:58. doi:10.1186/1129-2377-14-58
2. Robert C, Wilson CS, Lipton RB, Arreto CD. Growth of Headache Research: A 1983–2014 bibliometric study. *Cephalalgia*. 2016 Nov 11. pii: 0333102416678636 [Epub ahead of print]

Submit your manuscript to a SpringerOpen[®] journal and benefit from:

- Convenient online submission
- Rigorous peer review
- Open access: articles freely available online
- High visibility within the field
- Retaining the copyright to your article

Submit your next manuscript at ► springeropen.com

Correspondence: paolo.martelletti@uniroma1.it
Department of Clinical and Molecular Medicine, Sapienza University, Rome, Italy



© The Author(s). 2017 **Open Access** This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made.