



Patience Rewarded

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Product recognition enables consumers to make educated selections. Today, the media makes consumers aware of the availability, quality, and value for cost of almost every item purchased, program planned, and service rendered. Ratings or rankings of the advantages and disadvantages of stocks and bonds, automobiles, schools of higher learning, wines, sports teams—nearly any marketable commodity one cares to name—are now available. Those who would make a business of providing these estimates of relative merit have perhaps overstepped their authority and or political subservience in some cases, and may be undeserving of the opportunity to influence our lives as they do. In other instances, they provide valuable and creditable information with the potential to change beliefs and decision-making processes, so critical to realizing success or failure

Of course, the world of publications is not exempt from this process. Newspapers, magazines, books, and professional periodicals, for example, come under the scrutiny of the various authoritative bodies that have been established to make comparative assessments of the quality, integrity, and ethical value of their contents. The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) is just such a prestigious group. For its Science Citation Index, ISI accumulates scientific reference material from various publications in the form of citations. Based on the frequency of cited references from a particular periodical over time, relative to the total number of articles published within a given time frame, the ISI determines an impact factor for that publication. For all recognized journals in a particular field, a ranking system thus identifies publication stature in that area.

Each year the ISI publishes its *Journal of Citation Reports (JCR)*, which contains status information for each publication the ISI has accepted for its database. In addition, periodicals recognized in this manner may also be included in other related ISI publications.

The trickle-down effect of recognition by the ISI in any field can be significant. Valid scientific information generally comes from basic laboratory and clinical research that has met established criteria for acceptance or confirmation. Institutions of higher learning are most interested in knowing the individual sources for such work, since it helps them in their efforts to appoint as many recognized leaders in respected fields as their size, stature, and budgets will allow. While some consider the ISI resource more important than others, as curriculum vitae evaluations vary from one institution to another, many institutions obtain information concerning literature input and comparative merit at least in part from ISI publications. Of course, potential new faculty and those seeking academic promotion understand the value of publishing in recognized publications, and seek to have their work included in top-ranked journals.

The JOMI has been an internationally respected publication for more than a decade. While it obviously takes time to achieve recognition and status, the publisher and editorial staff of JOMI have been actively pursuing acceptance by the ISI during the past half-dozen years, particularly since the number of JOMI citations appearing in the implant and other scientific literature has continued to increase exponentially. Little progress had been made in convincing the ISI that the JOMI belongs in its database until the April 1997 issue of the *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (IJOMS)* published a revealing editorial by its editor, Dr P. J. W. Stoelinga, entitled "The Rise and Fall of



the Impact Factor." The IJOMS had learned from the JCR in late 1996 that its impact factor had taken a sudden and unexplained drop. Its editorial board and publisher, as well as the executive committee of its parent group, the IAOMS, all expressed dismay and concern, prompting the ISI to review its search procedure. In the words of Editor Stoelting,

. . . it became apparent that their [ISI's] system to identify the titles of journals was not selective enough to differentiate between the Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg and the Int J Oral Maxillofac Implants. In fact, it has become clear that in all probability citations referring to the Int J Oral Maxillofac Implants have been attributed to our Journal during the last eight years.

Shortly after learning this information, Quintessence pursued the matter with ISI. In a July 17, 1997 letter from ISI officials, Quintessence was notified that upon reevaluation of the JOMI using the latest available data, the journal would be added to the Science Citation Index, the Science Citation Index Expanded, Research Alert, and Current Contents/Clinical Medicine, beginning with Volume 12 (1), 1997. While the JOMI will not have an impact factor until 1998, appropriate recognition has finally been achieved. Our ongoing frustration with this process can finally be acknowledged to all of our authors and readers and to the Academy of Osseointegration, for whom the JOMI is the official publication, as it has certainly perplexed many of you. However, justice has been served, and our frayed patience has at last been rewarded. Perhaps our continuing efforts to provide a quality publication dedicated to the pursuit of science and excellence can now be documented.