

## JAD's impact factor increased to 2.008!

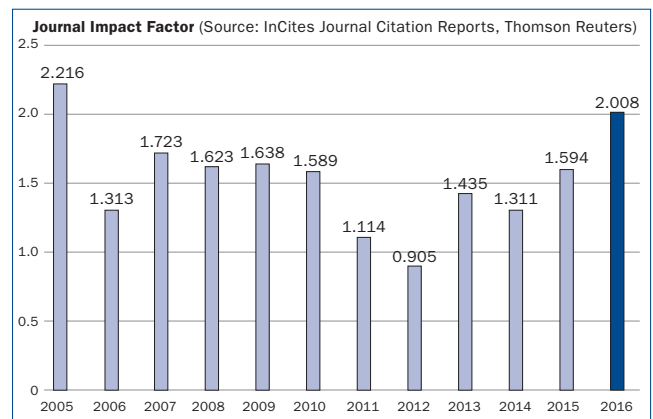
Dear Reader,

Although often criticized, a journal's Impact Factor (IF) remains an indicator of scientific impact or measure of quality among academic journals. In essence, IF simply denotes the average citations of articles published in a particular journal during the preceding two years (IF 2016 = number of 2016 citations of papers published in the particular journal in 2014 and 2015, divided by the number of articles published in 2014 and 2015). Today, many universities and research funding organizations use the journal's IF at least as one of the criteria to assess the scientific output of researchers or research programs, when applying for academic promotion or submitting research grants. Hence, as editors of the JAD, we cannot neglect the journal's IF, as this remains an important, if not the paramount criterion for authors to decide in which journal they prefer to have their latest research data published.

Besides other publication tactics, journals may use editorial policies to increase their IF, for instance, by publishing many review papers, which generally reach higher citation numbers than do research reports. While the latter policy is ethically acceptable, another tactic is to influence/encourage authors to include as many references to papers published before in one's own journal.

At the JAD editorial office, we clearly see a relationship between IF and the overall quality of manuscripts submitted. We are therefore very pleased to announce that JAD has again climbed up a rung, from its lowest IF of 0.905 in 2012 to 2.008 as its most recent 2016 IF. JAD's IF still remains below the 2.216 IF recorded in 2005, when the journal received its highest IF to date.

An increasing trend in JAD's IF can clearly be noted (Fig 1), which we believe should be attributed to additional measures that were taken to shorten review and publication times in order to attract higher impact manuscripts to the JAD. In turn, this has already resulted in higher citation rates, and will continue to do so. With the current IF, the JAD is today ranked as number 28 out of 90 journals in the field of "Dentistry, Oral Surgery & Medicine". JAD's



**Fig 1** Impact factor by year.

editorial team along with Quintessence Publishing are on the right track and even hope the IF will further increase in the coming years.

To further the JAD's high standards, we are very pleased to announce that the editorial team has recently been extended with Prof. Dr. Steve Armstrong (University of Iowa) as fifth Associate Editor (Fig 2). Not only does this mean having another globally respected researcher in the broad field of adhesive dentistry on board, it also further distributes the high work load involved in the review process. We are very pleased that Steve has agreed to contribute to the JAD in this way, and we sincerely thank him for volunteering to serve the academic community in dental adhesive research.



**Fig 2** New associate Editor Dr. Steve Armstrong.

Bart Van Meerbeek

Roland Frankenberger