

New impact factors reflect NPG's investments

Impact factors are the best available means scientists have of assessing a journal's visibility and scientific credibility. The 2003 statistics recently released by Thomson ISI show the *Nature* titles are leading the pack.

Nature, with its new impact factor of 30.979, is once again the top multidisciplinary science journal, ahead of its major competitors *Science* (29.162) and *Cell* (26.626).

Nature journals are the top primary research journals in the ISI life science categories of genetics & heredity (*Nature Genetics*), immunology (*Nature Immunology*), neurosciences (*Nature Neuroscience*), biophysics (*Nature Structural & Molecular Biology*), medicine, research and experimental (*Nature Medicine*), and biotechnology & applied microbiology (*Nature Biotechnology*). In the physical sciences, *Nature Materials*, which was launched in 2001 and received its first impact factor this year (10.778), is the top research journal in materials science.

The *Nature Reviews* journals have also consolidated their reputation as the premier source for reviews – each is now the leading monthly review journal in its respective category. Indeed, *Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology*, with an impact factor of 35.041, is not only top in the cell biology category but also the fourth highest title in all fields covered by ISI. Two of the *Nature Reviews* journals received their first full impact factors this year and both were very impressive: *Nature Reviews Immunology* (26.957) is the top monthly review journal in immunology, and *Nature Reviews Cancer* (33.954) is the leading journal in oncology. Finally, the first impact factor for *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery* (17.732) highlighted this journal's leading role in the drug discovery and development arena.

In addition to the *Nature*-branded titles, NPG publishes 30 academic journals, many on behalf of learned societies and organizations. Over 75% of NPG's academic journals saw an increase in their impact factor - a reflection of the high degree of editorial support and guidance that is provided by NPG staff to external editors and societies. Highlights include *Cell Death and Differentiation*, which increased by 23% (5.701 to 7.008); *Oncogene*, which increased by 9% (5.979 to 6.495); and *Neuropsychopharmacology* (published on behalf of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology), which increased by 16% from 4.497 to 5.201. This strengthening of impact factors across the portfolio secures NPG's position as the publisher of choice for high-impact high-quality content.

Philip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief of the *Nature* publications, comments: "These outstanding statistics suggest that the Nature Publishing Group is right to invest in high-quality editorial staff and peer review to select what to publish, to invest in improving services to authors, and never to compromise on editorial independence".

NOTE TO EDITORS

Impact Factors are determined by the Thomson-ISI in Philadelphia, USA. They are calculated by taking all citations in a given year to articles (of any type) published in the preceding two years, and dividing that number by the total number of what ISI calls "citable papers"; the result is the Impact Factor. Broadly speaking, "citable items" are peer reviewed articles intended to form a permanent part of the scientific record; however, the total number of citations used in the

calculation may include citations to items such as editorials and news pieces, which are generally not counted as "citable items". For more details, see ISI's web site, <http://www.isinet.com/>.

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) is the scientific publishing arm of Macmillan Publishers Ltd, combining the excellence of: *Nature*, Nature research journals, Nature Reviews, NPG Academic Journals and NPG Reference publications, to provide the world's premier information resource for the basic biological and physical sciences. NPG is a global company, with headquarters in London and offices in New York, Boston, San Francisco, Washington DC, Tokyo, Paris, Munich and Basingstoke. More than half of the company's business activity is in North America; it is also a market leader in Europe and Japan. <http://npg.nature.com/>

Nature, our flagship journal, has been an influential force in scientific publishing for more than 130 years. Today it is still fresh, arresting and innovative and aims to communicate the latest ground-breaking and original scientific discoveries across all disciplines of science. It is published weekly. <http://www.nature.com/nature>

Nature research journals The eight *Nature* research journals, *Nature Biotechnology*, *Nature Cell Biology*, *Nature Genetics*, *Nature Immunology*, *Nature Materials*, *Nature Medicine*, *Nature Neuroscience* and *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology* are published monthly.

Nature Reviews The seven *Nature Reviews*: *Nature Reviews Cancer*, *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*, *Nature Reviews Genetics*, *Nature Reviews Immunology*, *Nature Reviews Microbiology*, *Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology* and *Nature Reviews Neuroscience* are published monthly.

NPG's academic journals cover a range of subject areas, from molecular biology to clinical medicine. Many are published on behalf of learned societies and organizations, including the European Molecular Biology Organization, Cancer Research UK, and the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology Inc. For a complete list of titles visit www.nature.com

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