

Editorial

The Impact of JIDC

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This month JIDC is exactly five years old. Coincidentally, JIDC also received its first impact factor this past month. This is an important step for our journal as it signifies the usefulness of JIDC as a resource for those in the field of infectious disease. Almost universally scientists across many disciplines recognize the significance of a journal's impact factor as a guide for judging the average citations of the journal in a given year. Most often when, as scientists, we discuss impact factor, we are referring to the Thompson Reuters Impact Factor. As posted on the Thompson Reuters site, "The impact factor . . . is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year or period" (http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/free/essays/impact_factor/). While Thompson Reuters cautions careful use of impact factor numbers in evaluating a journal or article, the Thompson Reuters Impact Factor has served as a helpful reference over the past decades. The impact factor for JIDC is now 1.2 and likely will continue to grow over the next few years. An impact factor of 1.2 gives international status to JIDC and many of our authors can now list JIDC in their promotion packages. Five

years ago when we started JIDC, it was not our aim for JIDC to be driven by impact factor. We felt the infectious diseases clinicians and scientists in developing countries would best be served by our dedication to promote and publish scientists and infectious disease articles and stories in developing countries. Receiving an impact factor is a consequence of JIDC's success and will help in bringing additional recognition not just to JIDC but to the problem of infectious diseases in developing countries and the difficulties faced by the scientists and clinicians in these countries.

It is important to communicate our appreciation to all those who work hard to publish JIDC each month including the editors, reviewers, technical editors, web managers, supporting staff, readers and authors. We especially want to thank our sponsors over the years, including University Health Network (Toronto, Canada), Shantou University Medical College (Shantou, China), Foundation for the Bank of Sardinia (Sassari, Sardinia, Italy), University of Sassari (Sassari, Sardinia, Italy), Immune Diagnostics and Research (Kingsville, Canada), and the Li Ka Shing Foundation (China).