Editor's Page

Has ANC Had an Impact on Clinical Science? Yes, We Have

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"The more I work, the more I see things differently, that is, everything gains in grandeur every day, becomes more and more unknown, more and more beautiful. The closer I come, the grander it is, the more remote it is."

—Alberto Giacometti—

At the end of August 2015, the Japanese Society of Nuclear Cardiology (JSNC) opened its door to the world with the publication of a new English-language journal, the Annals of Nuclear Cardiology (ANC) (1). This is the one-year anniversary of ANC and I have the great honor of introducing our second issue of the journal. Once again, I am sincerely grateful to my predecessor, Dr. Kenichi Nakajima for his advice and support and to Professor Akira Yamashina who has provided tremendous expertise, guidance and encouragement in the development of JSNC (2). I am also grateful to the JSNC executive board members, editorial board members, reviewers, members and authors around the world.

In the first issue of ANC, as editor-in-chief, I stated that the function of the journal would be twofold: to present research related to nuclear cardiology and to promote the education of young physicians and technologists. The first issue contained several educational review articles. Authors from around the world provided high quality review articles (3). In fact, a number of review articles in ANC have been cited by prominent international journals and have appeared in Web of Science registered journals (Table 1). Citations in the 4 manuscripts in question will no doubt positively affect future impact factor (IF) applications by ANC.

While being cited in a Web of Science registered journal is evidence that an article meets a high standard, we know that the other manuscripts in the first issue were also of very high quality. However, currently in the academic world, a great deal of emphasis is put on IF. A scientific journal that has IF is

considered to have met a high standard. Therefore, it is quite important to track the citation record of manuscripts published in ANC. ANC will register in this database in the near future, a step that will help to prepare us for future IF application. We will keep JSNC members and ANC readers up to date on citation records.

In the first issue of the journal, we published only one original article (4). I am pleased to announce that we are receiving original articles in increasing numbers and we expect more to come. As Dr. Yamashina noted, encouraging research activities is an important function of the journal (2). In this regard, our next challenge should be to augment the numbers of original articles and technical points of view that we publish. We would like to support young or inexperienced scientists in their manuscript preparation. Writing a manuscript is always a challenge, especially for inexperienced authors. Our reviewers have had lots of experience as authors being reviewed by high quality journals, and their comments are therefore sometimes critical. To help inexperienced or young scientists to navigate such a critical review process, I have been working with some of them on their manuscript preparation. When their manuscripts have reached the standard demanded by the journal, I have encouraged them to submit the manuscripts for consideration. This support system has resulted in a number of these articles being published in this issue of the journal.

In addition, we are also launching a new mini-review series introducing basic statistical approaches. I hope this series will help our members to improve the quality of their scientific research.

ANC is also aiming to provide educational materials and we are also launching a new "fellow's corner". In this issue's fellow's corner, Dr. Ohira addresses current North American standard clinical nuclear cardiology reporting based on his

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Table 1 ANC articles cited by international journals 2015-2016

First Author	Title of ANC manuscript	Journal	Issue
Kasama S, et al. (7)	The Clinical Usefulness of Cardiac Sympathetic Nerve Imaging using ¹²³ Iodine-Meta-iodobenzylguanidine Scintigraphy to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Pharmacological Treatments in Patients with Heart Failure	International Heart Journal	2016, Vol 57
Matsumoto N, et al. (8)	Current Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare Approval of Cardiac Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography	Circulation Journal	2016, Vol 79
Matsuo S, et al. (9)	Assessment of Cardiac Sympathetic Nerve Function Using ¹²³ I-meta-Iodobenzylguanidine Scintigraphy: Technical Aspects and Standardization	Circulation Journal	2016, Vol 80
Yoshinaga K. (10)	Current Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare Approval of Cardiac Positron Emission Tomography	Circulation Journal	2016, Vol 79

numerous experiences at the Ottawa Heart Institute. This article will contribute to improving our day-to-day clinical practice. As well, the Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology (CBNC) discusses the concept and importance of certification for professionals. We hope this article will inspire young fellows to apply to CBNC.

Under the direction of Dr. Yamashina and Dr. Nakajima, president-elect of JSNC, the Japanese Society of Nuclear Cardiology is aiming to develop international collaboration with the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC). I am pleased to announce the first co-publication in ANC and the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology (JNC) (REF:(5) 2016) as part of this collaboration. Prior to publishing ANC, we hoped that through an English-language version of our official journal, we could share our message regarding how JSNC is trying to develop international collaboration and develop critical roles in international societies. JSNC is also aiming to contribute to the development of nuclear cardiology in Asia. In fact, Dr. Bom has played an important role as an editorial board member (6) and ANC will strive to further strengthen collaboration with several Asian nuclear cardiology societies. Manuscripts published in ANC have already been cited by international journals. ANC is paving the way for collaboration between ASNC and JSNC, as evidenced by the most recent co-publication. From the outset, we hoped that ANC would make a positive contribution to the nuclear cardiology community. The real question is “Has ANC had an impact on clinical science?” The answer is “Yes, we have.”

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