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 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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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.”

Acknowledgments

The author thanks Ms. Saori Chiba, Mr. Hideaki Takai, and Mr. Osamu Konno for their support of the publication. Mr. Takai will soon replace Ms. Chiba as head of the editorial office. As a founding member of ANC, Ms. Chiba has shown great dedication to preparing this issue and the first issue for publication. I am grateful for her professional support and wish her success in her next step.

The author also thanks Ms. Holly Beanlands for critical reading of the instructions for authors.

Table 1  ANC articles cited by international journals 2015-2016

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<tr>
<th>First Author</th>
<th>Title of ANC manuscript</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Issue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kasama S, et al. (7)</td>
<td>The Clinical Usefulness of Cardiac Sympathetic Nerve Imaging using 123Iodine-Meta-iodobenzylguanidine Scintigraphy to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Pharmacological Treatments in Patients with Heart Failure</td>
<td>International Heart Journal</td>
<td>2016, Vol 57</td>
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References