

Guest Editorials

International Psychogeriatrics Needs You— You Need Us Too

There is probably no single reason that scientific authors choose a particular journal for the publication of their research papers. Most of us will have a feeling for the importance or otherwise of our work as we prepare it for submission and will want it to appear in the most prestigious and authoritative journal that will take it. Alternatively, we might want to reach a particular specialist audience because sometimes it is highly satisfying to know that your work has at least been read—even if it hasn't been cited! But why should you send your manuscripts for publication in *International Psychogeriatrics* rather than in one of the large number of competitor journals that have sprung up in the field in recent years? Here are four good reasons.

1. We have an impact factor that compares favorably with many other journals in the fields of psychiatry, geriatrics, and gerontology. Although *International Psychogeriatrics* does not yet have an "official" listed impact factor, Dr. Johannes Stegmann of the Benjamin Franklin University Hospital Medical Library in Berlin has calculated a "constructed impact factor" for us from cites retrieved from
2. We can guarantee you wide readership. Whereas many of our competitor journals are only available in libraries or through expensive individual subscription, *International Psychogeriatrics* is received by all members of the International Psychogeriatric Association as well as in many reputable medical libraries.

the databases SCISEARCH and SOCIAL SCISEARCH. This is an underestimate of the "true" impact factor, because it rather modestly does not include self-citations or cites given by *International Psychogeriatrics* to its own papers. In 1997-1998, the journal published 105 research-related articles and in 1999 these articles received 132 cites. Hence our most recent constructed impact factor is 1.26. How does this stack up against the competition? Because of the underestimation in our own result mentioned above, we are probably neck and neck with the *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* (1999 impact factor 1.56), a bit behind *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders* (1.74), but a good way ahead of the *Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neurology* (0.88).

3. We will do our best to look after your manuscript. *International Psychogeriatrics* has an editorial staff who, with enormous help from their generally good-natured reviewers, care about ensuring that the review process for each submission is efficient, courteous, and speedy.
4. *International Psychogeriatrics* is on the way up. We are working with Springer Publishing Company to continue to improve the cosmetic appeal of the journal and are developing a strategy to take our listed impact factor above 2.0 over the next 3 years.

Any journal can only be as good as the articles it receives for publication. *International Psychogeriatrics* is a middle-ranking journal within psychiatry as a whole,

but in the specialist field within which we work it should be your first choice for submission of data papers. Robin Eastwood and myself believe that we can both make and keep *International Psychogeriatrics* the number-one geriatric psychiatry journal. We need those of you who already write for us to continue your support, but we also need those of you who perhaps in the past have not fully appreciated just how good *International Psychogeriatrics* really is to take another look and submit a manuscript to us.

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