

Impact Factor: Myths and Realities

L F Rogers,*^{MD}

Abstract

The Impact Factor was originally devised as an index of the quality of scientific journals and has since obtained mythical proportions. Authors select journals to which they submit their work on the basis of that journal's Impact Factor. Medical school deans and administrators have adopted the Impact Factor as a means of judging the quality of the academic efforts of individual faculty, as well as the aggregate academic productivity of medical school departments. Departmental budgets have been based on the Impact Factor. There are serious questions as to the validity of using the Impact Factor for these purposes.

Ann Acad Med Singapore 2003; 32:429-32

Key words: Faculty assessment, Faculty publications, Impact factor

* Editor-in-Chief

American Journal of Roentgenology

I. Meschan Distinguished Professor of Radiology

Wake Forest University School of Medicine, USA

Address for Reprints: Dr Lee F Rogers, Editor-in-Chief, American Journal of Roentgenology, 101 South Stratford Road, Suite 303, Winston-Salem, NC 27104, USA.

Email: lrogers@ajroffice.org