

EDITORIAL

To surrender or to persevere?

All over the world, scientific groups are evaluated on the quality and impact of their research. One of the most recognized criteria of evaluation is publications, which are weighed by both quantity and quality. For this assessment, the so-called impact factor of journals in which the research data are published is used as a metric. The impact factor measures the number of citations the average paper in a journal has received over the past two years. In recent years, the use of the impact factor as a 'quick and dirty' assessment of scientists' capabilities and the quality of their research has been a hot topic of discussion in the research community. The recent 'San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment' (DORA) has strongly questioned such a procedure. The reasons are known: scientists are clever, and so they are 'gaming the game.' For instance, they follow the mainstream research topics to increase citations, they form 'citation cartels,' and they increase the number of self-citations. Although the impact factor is an unsuitable tool, it continues to be followed as better alternatives are still lacking.

Given that *Nutrition and Medicine* (NUME) is a new journal, this situation poses extreme difficulties since an impact factor for our journal still does not exist. According to the above-mentioned logic, NUME is in a position to receive enough submissions of papers, but their scientific quality has been, except in a few cases, far

from meeting the requirements necessary to initiate the peer review process. What can we do? Surrender or persevere?

We will not surrender! Rather, we will continue to adhere to the high standard of publication we have set for the journal even though we are well aware that in doing so, we can only expect to publish a very limited number of high-quality papers in the near future; nevertheless, our position remains rooted in the combined philosophy of NUME's editors and board members. Hence we would like to invite you once more to support our journal's activities and to enjoy the advantages of the Open Access strategy.

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