

EDITORIAL

Annual report, January 2008

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OVERVIEW

This past year has given opportunity for the publication of stellar original research from around the world. Authors from the USA, Japan, Germany, the UK, France, China, Italy, South Korea, Switzerland, and other nations have provided novel insights into disease pathogenesis. From skin to bone, the alimentary tract and liver, brain, heart, kidney, breast, and other tissues, the diverse spectrum of disease has been examined. This has included investigation of inflammatory disease processes, environmental toxicity such as mechanisms of fibrosis in different tissues, and of course carcinogenesis. This journal's strategy of presenting novel technical advances continues to pay dividends, with reports on tissue imaging of metabolites, whole genome analysis, tissue surrogates for archival formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded samples, and quantitative RT-PCR on microdissected tissue samples. All of these papers are in support of the journal mission of advancing knowledge into the pathogenesis of human disease.

A separate feature which has been marvelously successful is the 'Pathobiology in Focus' (PIF), launched in September 2006. In calendar year 2007, we have published 8 PIFs, covering methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, wnt signaling, ocular angiogenesis, enteric glial cells, the barrier function of astroglia, cell-surface sialic acid presentation, cancer–stroma interactions, and (to our delight) a commentary on the continued role of the light microscope in pathology research. These PIFs add to the existing 'Minireviews' and 'Editorial Perspectives' which we publish from time to time. In a December 2007 editorial perspective on 'The Impact of Review Articles',¹ we documented that two 'minireviews from 2005 are two of the three most-cited articles in the pathology literature from 2005 (year-to-date in 2007). We also document that the predominant

strength of this and other major pathology journals is the quality of published original research, and to this objective we hold steady.

The published 2007 impact factor for *Laboratory Investigation* is 4.453, constituting the first impact factor that reflects papers published during this editorship (2004–2008). The 2007 impact factor is a 0.594 jump from the 2006 value of 3.859, and is a return of this journal to the mid-4's range, last attained in 1999. It is our definite hope that this journal will continue to track upward in its reputation and value both to authors and the readership. From an operational standpoint, we strive to maintain the highest performance standards. These include an average days-to-first decision of 16 days; and an average days-to-final-decision of 21 days (representing total journal review time to final disposition—acceptance or rejection). For manuscripts undergoing full external scientific review, we are most thankful to our external reviewers for keeping review time consistently under 20 days. The names of reviewers for issue 87, calendar year 2007, are given at the close of this editorial.

Lastly, the journal presentation and format was modified with the February 2007 issue, so as to enhance the graphic presentation of published material. This included full integration of cover images with the cover graphics, more visually appealing front pages, and most importantly, enhanced graphic presentation of published articles. The PIF articles, in particular, provide professional-caliber graphic artwork, which is available free-of-charge for web download. It is our hope that the visual style of the journal will further distinguish the high-quality work that we are privileged to publish.

There is value in reflecting upon articles drawing the greatest attention from the reading public. Table 1 gives the top 10 articles accessed from the web in the form of HTML or PDF downloads, over the period January 1, 2007 to

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Table 1 Top 10 articles downloaded as HTML or PDF files, January 1, 2007–September 30, 2007

Rank	Authors	Title	Article type	Year;Volume(Issue): Pages
1	Boyle-Vavra S; Daum RS	Community-acquired methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> : the role of Panton-Valentine leukocidin	Pathobiology in focus	2007;87(1):3–9
2	Tan BT; Park CY; Ailles LE; Weissman IL	The cancer stem cell hypothesis: a work in progress	Pathobiology in focus	2006;86(12):1203–1207
3	de Kok JB; Roelofs RW; Giesendorf BA; Pennings JL; Waas ET; FeuthT; Swinkels DW; Span PN	Normalization of gene expression measurements in tumor tissues: comparison of 13 endogenous control genes	Research article	2005;85(1):154–159
4	Shojaei F; Ferrara N	Antiangiogenesis to treat cancer and intraocular neovascular disorders	Pathobiology in focus	2007;87(3):227–230
5	Li YX; Yang HT; Zdanowicz M; Sicklick JK; Qi Y; Camp TJ; Diehl AM	Fetal alcohol exposure impairs hedgehog cholesterol modification and signaling	Research article	2007;87(3):231–240
6	Cunningham KS; Gotlieb AI	The role of shear stress in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis	Mini review	2005;85(1):9–23
7	Rosai J	Why microscopy will remain a cornerstone of surgical pathology	Pathobiology in focus	2007;87(5):403–408
8	Dauphinee SM; Karsan A	Lipopolysaccharide signaling in endothelial cells	Mini review	2006;86(1):9–22
9	Tan DS; Lambros MB; Natrijan R; Reis-Filho JS	Getting it right: designing microarray (and not 'microarray') comparative genomic hybridization studies for cancer research	Mini review	2007;87(8):737–754
10	Pan J; Wang Q; Snell WJ	Cilium-generated signaling and cilia-related disorders	Mini review	2005;85(4):452–463

September 30, 2007. Four of the top 10 were PIFs, 4 were Minireviews, and 2 were original research articles. The 8 PIFs and Minireviews are drawn from a total of 13 PIFs and 13 Minireviews published in 2005–2007. This is a high return, in keeping with our intent to publish critical reviews which truly add value to the literature. Importantly, original research articles remain the mainstay of the journal, starting with the marvelous articles by de Kok *et al* on 'Normalization of gene expression measurements in tumor tissues' and Li *et al* on 'Fetal alcohol exposure impairs hedgehog cholesterol modification and signaling'. As in our published review of reviews,¹ the predominant impact of this

journal is through its original published research. This is further demonstrated in Table 2, which reports the top 10 cited *Lab Invest* papers of 2006. Five of the top 10 cited papers are original research articles.

As always, the quality of this journal will depend upon the excellence of submitted articles. We seek 'the best' in original research devoted to understanding the mechanisms of disease. This includes work in human tissues and with experimental models, both *in vivo* and *in vitro*. We consider original reports of new experimental models for disease, and of major technical advances of broad impact to research into disease pathogenesis. We welcome suggestions for critical

Table 2 Top 10 cited articles published in 2006, through October 15, 2007

Times cited	Authors	Title	Article type	Year;Volume(Issue): Pages
19	Dauphinee SM; Karsan A	Lipopolysaccharide signaling in endothelial cells	Mini review	2006;86(1):9–22
16	Blair SA; Kane SV; Clayburgh DR; Turner JR	Epithelial myosin light chain kinase expression and activity are upregulated in inflammatory bowel disease	Research article	2006;86(2):191–201
16	Nayernia K; Lee JH; Drusenheimer N; Nolte J; Wulf G; Dressel R; Gromoll J; Engel W	Derivation of male germ cells from bone marrow stem cells	Research Article	2006;86(7):654–663
15	Yu P; Fu YX	Tumor-infiltrating T lymphocytes: friends or foes?	Mini review	2006;86(3):231–245
13	Saika S	TGF beta pathobiology in the eye	Mini review	2006;86(2):106–115
12	Lambros MBK; Simpson PT; Jones C; Natrajan R; Westbury C; Steele D; Savage K; Mackay A; Schmitt FC; Ashworth A; Reis-Filho JS	Unlocking pathology archives for molecular genetic studies: a reliable method to generate probes for chromogenic and fluorescent in situ hybridization	Technical report	2006;86(4):398–408
12	Lasota J; Stachura J; Miettinen M	GISTs with PDGFRA exon 14 mutations represent subset of clinically favorable gastric tumors with epithelioid morphology	Research article	2006;86(1):94–100
11	Seki T; Hong KH; Oh SP	Nonoverlapping expression patterns of ALK1 and ALK5 reveal distinct roles of each receptor in vascular development	Research article	2006;86(2):116–129
10	Seeberger KL; Dufour JM; Shapiro AMJ; Lakey JRT; Rajotte RV; Korbitt GS	Expansion of mesenchymal stem cells from human pancreatic ductal epithelium	Research article	2006;86(2):141–153
8	Tan BT; Park CY; Ailles LE; Weissman IL	The cancer stem cell hypothesis: a work in progress	Pathobiology in focus	2006;86(12):1203–1207

reviews or novel PIF reports. We are also willing to entertain suggestions for thoughtful Editorial Perspectives. Most importantly, we thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and look forward to the coming year.

James M Crawford, MD, PhD
Editor-in-Chief

1. Ketcham CM, Crawford JM. The impact of review articles. *Lab Invest* 2007;87:1174–1185.

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