EDITORIAL

Molecular Psychiatry 1996: High immediacy index

The Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) has released their Journal Citation Reports Immediacy Index for 1996, which rates the 'hottest' journals. *Molecular Psychiatry* had the second highest rate in the field of psychiatry (Table 1), and was rated higher than well-established medical journals, such as *Endocrinology*, *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*, and *American Journal of Physiology* (Table 1).

The journal Immediacy Index is a measure of how quickly the 'average article' in a journal is cited in the same year it is published. The immediacy index will tell how often articles published in a journal are cited within the same year. Ranking by immediacy index allows one to see which journals received the most citations per current article in the ISI database. This index favors journals which have issues appearing earlier in the year, as there is more time for their papers to be cited in the course of that year. For our first volume, 1996, we had all odds against a high immediacy index. First, our first issue was only distributed in April, which gave little time for our papers to be known and cited in that same year. Second and most importantly, in 1996 *Molecular Psychiatry* was not cited in Medline, PubMed or Current Contents (our 1996 articles were added to Medline only in 1997). Nevertheless, we reached a very high ranking position in our field. We can only expect that our ranking will increase now that we have been in Medline, PubMed and Current Contents for several months. Such a high immediacy index truly reflects the quality and impact of our papers. We have fulfilled our goals of rigorous review, rapid publication and high visibility.¹ We would like to thank our readers, contributors, reviewers, and the scientific community at large for the enormous support we have received since our launching in 1996, and for our continued success.

J Licinio
Editor

Table 1

<i>Journal</i>	<i>Immediacy Index</i>
Non-psychiatric journals:	
<i>Cell</i>	6.616
<i>Nature</i>	6.290
<i>New Engl J Med</i>	5.909
<i>Science</i>	4.837
<i>J Clin Invest</i>	1.130
<i>Molecular Psychiatry</i>	0.838
<i>J Clin Endocrinol Metab</i>	0.642
<i>Endocrinology</i>	0.611
<i>Am J Physiol</i>	0.418
Neuroscience journals	
<i>Neuron</i>	3.039
<i>J Neurosci</i>	1.374
<i>Molecular Psychiatry</i>	0.838
<i>Neuroscience</i>	0.517
<i>Neuroreport</i>	0.213
Psychiatric journals	
<i>Arch Gen Psychiatry</i>	1.657
<i>Molecular Psychiatry</i>	0.838
<i>Neuropsychopharmacology</i>	0.741
<i>Am J Psychiatry</i>	0.671
<i>Br J Psychiatry</i>	0.654
<i>Psychol Med</i>	0.538
<i>Biol Psychiatry</i>	0.227
<i>Psychiatry</i>	0.143
<i>Psychiat Res</i>	0.070
<i>Psychiat Clin Neurosci</i>	0.047

References

- 1 Licinio J. *Molecular Psychiatry*: The integration of molecular medicine and clinical psychiatry. *Mol Psychiatry* 1996; **1**: 1-3.