



## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Published online: 10 November 2018

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This year, we achieved the progress in the governance of Editorship of *Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging* (the Journal), with the completion of the second term of Editorial Board, Associate Editors, and myself, the Editor-in-Chief. Fortunately, we could successfully expand the number of issues per year to six and Editing and Publishing job has come to be now year-round one. Acceptance and the publication has become closer in time so that the authors can now expect their articles be available sooner than the previous quarterly publication era. Submission has become from all over the world especially for Interesting Image and Case Report. Clarivate analytics did not approve our submission for indexing the Journal in SCI this year as we belong to the 3rd Quartile in their statistics of the already-indexed journals in the field of *Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Imaging* with the citation index (impact factor) of 1.09 in 2017 for the 2015/2016 of publication, which means the articles of our Journal are cited annually on average 1.09 times. This number was acquired while the Journal consisted of the articles of which one half are cited and the other one half are not cited at all. Of course, the uncited documents are Interesting Images and Case Reports. Despite this adversity, we achieved the number over 1, and the SJR (SCOPUS Journal Ranking) has become 0.55 which is 135th over 330 SCOPUS Journals and cites per documents for the last 2 years was 1.38 (135th over 215 Web of Science Journals) in 2018. Figure 1 shows the current ranking of the Journal comparing with *Clinical Nuclear Medicine*, *Annals of Nuclear Medicine*, *Nuclear Medicine Communication*, and *Nuklearmedizin*.

I think that the Journal has reached the phase that consolidated positive feedback of widespread submission, earnest and timely review, and appropriate editing of the contents. The only thing missing now is the thematic items of the Journal per issue(s) to the readers, which indicates what the

editors had planned to deliver to lead the future of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging via this Journal. Last several years, Associate Editors were advised to plan and practically coordinated to publish the review series in chemistry and physics in 2015–2016 and nuclear cardiology, therapy, and radiomics in 2017 in the Journal. The direction of the Journal has now also headed to the theranostics and the therapy presenting sketches of the vision to the next-generation nuclear medicine of decades ahead. Interestingly, global community of nuclear medicine and biology are paying increasing attention to Nuclear Theranostics since last year. Since decades ago, European leaders already pioneered in the invention of the first success of using nuclear theranostics for neuroendocrine tumors and castration-resistant prostate cancers. This success was in addition to the gradual introduction of using Y-90 labeled microspheres for primary or metastatic liver cancers or Ra-223 for metastatic bone cancers globally. We can see and hear everywhere about these initial successes in all the continental, regional, and country congresses. Interestingly, we are expecting another World Congress which World Theranostics Congress 2019 in Korea early next year (<http://theranostics2019.org/>). The participants from all over the world will discuss and invent the strategic plans in increasing expansion and affordability of new theranostics for tumors with already established treatments or other cancers and non-communicable diseases in general.

For our third term of Editorship, I and the Associate Editors, will find the proper positioning of our Journal to contribute flexibly and timely to the progress of nuclear medicine. Molecular imaging is not just molecular-biology based imaging but nuclear imaging with molecular ligands in general. And thus just as before, though we are keen to introduce novel endeavors of molecular imaging in preclinical studies in the Journal, we are more inclined to publish the achievements of any significance for future clinical translation. This will especially be based upon the confidence and pride of the authors, at least Korean ones, that they are able to pursue the high-end basic and preclinical works and are publishing their works in other multi-disciplinary or basic journals. However,

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SJR		Scimago Journal & Country Rank	
Title	Type	SJR	Cites / Doc. (2years)
108 <a href="#">Annals of Nuclear Medicine</a>	journal	0.687 Q2	1.73
114 <a href="#">Clinical Nuclear Medicine</a>	journal	0.652 Q2	1.50
135 <a href="#">Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging</a>	journal	0.551 Q2	1.38
137 <a href="#">Nuclear Medicine Communications</a>	journal	0.546 Q2	1.48
138 <a href="#">Nuklearmedizin</a>	journal	0.543 Q2	1.43

[https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=2741&page=3&total\\_size=330](https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=2741&page=3&total_size=330)

**Fig. 1** SCOPUS Journal Ranking for *Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging* and several other journals. The first quartile (Q1) of ranking ranged from 4.66 (SJR 1st) to 0.868 (SJR 74th), the second quartile (Q2) from 0.866 to 0.501 (SJR 148th over 247 SCOPUS journals) among the journals of radiology, nuclear medicine, and imaging. SJR: SCOPUS Journal Ranking (derived from [https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=2741&page=3&total\\_size=330](https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=2741&page=3&total_size=330))

for further clinical translation, we have few journals available and affordable to propagate the information from fast developing countries and thus our Journal can become one of the best platforms, though not now, very soon. For example, theranostics and deep learning will be the first items of interest as it started from the same starting line from the beginning in the Journal.

I appreciate the contribution of the current members of the Editorial Board with their hearty encouragement of the Journal, and now will reform the editorial board to include more keenly interested in the future of the Journal and the nuclear medicine of the developing countries and regions. They will be surely younger and next-generation folks of nuclear medicine and related sciences, i.e., chemistry, physics, and biology from Asia. We are sure to give more spaces to these editorial board members that they can use the Journal as platform to communicate with the leaders who are currently in charge of the future. Global future of nuclear medicine will

rely on both the current leaders of developing countries in Asia, Arab, Latin America, and Balkan and Eastern Europe and the next-generation experts of all the countries in the world. They have not had the finest platform like *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* or *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging*. Other country journals including the previous Korean Society's one have not and are not yet functioning best to support the progress of the next-generation experts in our field of nuclear medicine and related sciences. We are going to promote Asian nuclear medicine from the standpoint of developing and, at most, recently-developed countries and sooner or later will lead and contribute to the progress of nuclear medicine. Asian leaders and next-generation leaders as well as the next-generation leaders of other continents are going to be immediately invited to join the Editorial Board this time, once they are recognized and/or nominated by the country leaders and current Associate Editors and myself.

Based on this initiative envisioned for the next term, and taking the opportunity TWC 2019 where all the leaders convene ranging from the far-ahead pioneers (and their juniors) in advanced countries, to the next-generation leaders from Asia and all the other continents, the first special issue of *Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging* will be published in February of 2019. It has the theme of "Nuclear Theranostics in Asia"; the readers will be able to browse and recognize the global current status in this special issue. I personally hope the recent future of nuclear medicine made of Nuclear Theranostics and Radionuclide and Radiopharmaceutical Therapy shall be made by the concurrent efforts of emerging leaders of the world, that is to say, those of the developing countries as well as advanced countries. 2019 and 2010 issues of *Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging* will be a witness to this global endeavor.

## Compliance with Ethical Standards

**Conflict of Interest** Dong Soo Lee declares no conflict of interest.