

Impact of Indian journals is escalating

Publishing in *Science Citation Index (SCI)* journals with impact factor (IF) continues to draw attention of researchers¹ as also issues like page/publication charges² for publishing in such journals. Now there is good news from Indian S&T journals with IF of 1.000 or more that do not demand page/publication charges and at the

same time are available on the internet as open access.

In 2004, two Indian journals crossed IF of 1.000 for the first time³. It became one in 2005 (ref. 4) and three in 2006 (ref. 5; Table 1). This is indeed an encouraging trend and one hopes more Indian journals will cross IF of 1.000 in future

and some of these journals may even touch IF of 2.000 shortly. What is important is that not many journals have high IF. Specifically, in 2006, the highest IF was 63.342 for *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*. Of the 6164 journals included in the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*, Science Edition, 2006, just 109 (1.77%) had IF of 10.000 or more and more than half of the total journals, i.e. 3399 (55.14%) had IF of 1.000 or more⁵. And in 2006, three Indian journals, including *The Indian Journal of Medical Research*, published by the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi had the highest IF of 1.224 by any S&T journal in India⁶. It is high time that the editors of these five Indian journals (Table 1) be honoured appropriately.

Table 1. Indian journals with impact factor of 1.000 or more during 2004–06

JCR, Science edition, Year	No. of total journals	No. of Indian journals	Indian journal(s) with IF of 1.000 or more, including URL	Publisher
2004	5968	47	2 <i>Journal of Biosciences</i> (IF2004: 1.102) http://www.ias.ac.in/jbiosci/index.html <i>Journal of Genetics</i> (IF2004: 1.100) http://www.ias.ac.in/jgenet/index.html	Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore
2005	6088	49	1 <i>Journal of Biosciences</i> (IF2005: 1.031) http://www.ias.ac.in/jbiosci/index.html	Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore
2006	6164	45	3 <i>The Indian Journal of Medical Research</i> (IF2006: 1.224) http://www.icmr.nic.in/ijmr/ijmr.htm <i>Journal of Chemical Sciences</i> (IF2006: 1.120) http://www.ias.ac.in/chemsci/ <i>The National Medical Journal of India</i> (IF2006: 1.000) http://www.nmji.in/the%20Journal/the_Journal.htm	Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

1. Singh, H. P., *Curr. Sci.*, 2007, **93**, 887.
2. Narayanan, M. S., *Curr. Sci.*, 2007, **93**, 889–890.
3. Jain, N. C., *Curr. Sci.*, 2005, **89**, 429.
4. *Journal Citation Reports 2005*, Science Edition (CD-ROM), Thomson, Philadelphia, 2006.
5. *Journal Citation Reports 2006*, Science Edition (CD-ROM), Thomson, Philadelphia, 2007.
6. Satyanarayana, K., *Indian J. Med. Res.*, 2007, **126**, 4–5.

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Tissue culture technology and transgenic biology – A boon or bane?

Plant tissue culture is an important tool in the field of plant biotechnology for the conservation of endangered and economically important plant species. The technique is also helpful in producing genetically modified (GM) crops. But is the technology really following its path? A large amount of money is pumped in every year for the conservation of endangered plants through 'clonal propaga-

tion' and large number of protocols are available at present. Unfortunately, we are not witnessing an improvement in the status of these plant species in nature. The 2007 *IUCN Red List* revealed that the number of threatened plant species is increasing gradually¹.

Moreover, the GM crop plants produced through transgenic technology pose ethical, economical, ecological and tech-

nological risks. Their existence in nature causes a rapid depletion of the genetic resources, which has resulted in gene erosion, genotype decrement and biodiversity loss. Further, the GM plants cause various ill-effects to soil physiochemical properties and the soil becomes unfit for other plant species. The greed of farmers to gain more profits in a short span of time has led to severe distur-