



A brilliant dawn and an even brighter future for *Annals of Translational Medicine*

Giuseppe Lippi

Section of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Verona, Verona, Italy

Correspondence to: Prof. Giuseppe Lippi, Executive Editor-in-Chief of *Annals of Translational Medicine*, Section of Clinical Biochemistry, University Hospital of Verona, Piazzale L.A. Scuro 10, 37134 - Verona, Italy. Email: giuseppe.lippi@univr.it.

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Although no universally agreed connotation exists for “translational medicine”, and this concept means many different things to different people, a reasonable definition is that endorsed by the European Society for Translational Medicine (EUSTM), which defines translational medicine as a science aimed at “*enhancing research and development of novel and affordable diagnostic tools and treatments for clinical disorders affecting the global population*” (1). Another valuable definition is that provided by the Society for Translational Medicine (STM), which defines translational medicine as a science aimed at “*improving survival and quality of life of patients by using translational medicine approaches, resources and expertise*” (2). Putting together these two definitions, we could perhaps conclude that translational medicine may be defined as a disruptive science focused on conducting “*original and observational investigations in the broad fields of laboratory, clinical and public health research, aiming to provide practical up-to-date information in significant research from all subspecialties of medicine and broaden the vision and horizon from bench to bed and bed to bench*”. Not surprisingly, this paragraph summarizes the aims and scopes of the journal *Annals of Translational Medicine (ATM)* (3).

On June 20th 2019, Clarivate Analytics has released the new 2018 InCites Journal Citation Reports (JCR), which encompasses the new impact factor (IF) of journals indexed in Web of Science-Core Collections and Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE). Briefly, the annual IF of a journal is calculated by dividing the number of citations received by articles published by the journal in that same year for the total number of articles published by the journal in previous two years (4). The 2018 IF can hence be calculated by dividing the number of citations received in 2018 by the total number of articles published by the journal in 2016 and

2017 [e.g., (2018 journal IF) = (Citations in 2018 for articles published in 2016 and 2017)/(citable items published in 2016 and 2017)]. Based on this calculation, it can be easily recognized why the IF is very frequently exploited by many scientists for rating the scientific relevance of a journal within—or even outside—its specific “Science category” (4). Rather understandably, journals having higher IF are hence diffusely considered more scientifically important than others with lower IF values.

The first IF of *ATM* is 3.689, which places the journal 79/229 in the Science category “Oncology” (65.7th percentile), 47/136 in the Science category “Research and Experimental Medicine” (65.8th percentile), and 14/32 among science and medical journals which include the words “translation” or “translational” in their title (Figure 1). A list of more cited *ATM* articles, i.e., those which have more contributed to such a brilliant success, is shown in Table 1. Notably, a further analysis of JCR data highlights that the 2018 IF of *ATM* without self cites and the official IF are virtually identical (i.e., 3.595 versus 3.689). This means that no artefacts or unfair practices have been used to achieve such an excellent result, and that the value of contributions published in *ATM* in the past two years has been widely recognized and cited in many other journals, with external citations accounting for over 97% of total citations.

In acknowledging this outstanding achievement (the journal has only been launched in 2014), a special thank shall be addressed to all members of the Editorial Board, to the Editorial Office, to the Publisher, to the reviewers, as well as to all the scientists who have provided their valuable contributions to *ATM* and, last but not least, to all the readers of the journal, who have appreciated our work

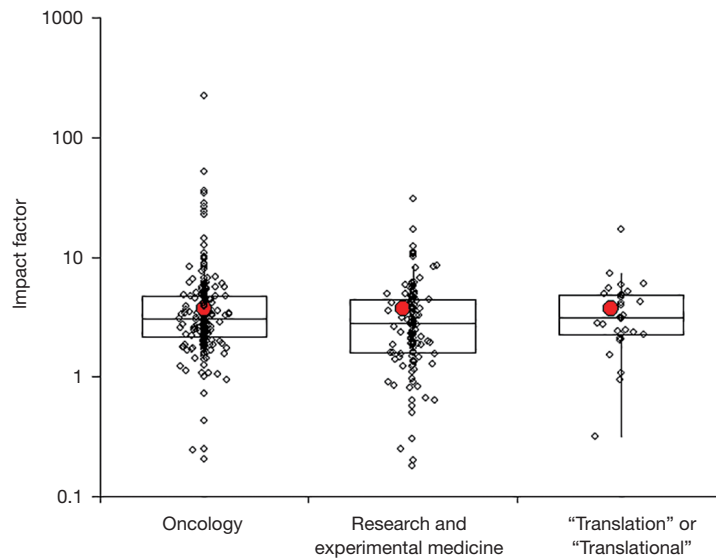


Figure 1 Ranking of the journal *Annals of Translational Medicine* (red full circle) in the 2018 InCites Journal Citation Reports (JCR) categories “Oncology”, “Research and Experimental Medicine”, and among science and medical journals containing the words “translation” or “translational” in the title.

Table 1 List of the ten articles published by *Annals of Translational Medicine* in the years 2016–2017, which have been cited more in 2018

Authors	Title	Publication date	2018 citations
Sanchis-Gomar <i>et al.</i>	Epidemiology of coronary heart disease and acute coronary syndrome	Jul 2016	57
Didkowska <i>et al.</i>	Lung cancer epidemiology: contemporary and future challenges worldwide	Apr 2016	39
Zhang	Univariate description and bivariate statistical inference: the first step delving into data	Mar 2016	34
Hoang <i>et al.</i>	Surgical applications of three-dimensional printing: a review of the current literature & how to get started	Dec 2016	27
Manzano <i>et al.</i>	Resistant mechanisms to BRAF inhibitors in melanoma	Jun 2016	26
Zhang	Model building strategy for logistic regression: purposeful selection	Mar 2016	26
Papaioannou <i>et al.</i>	Harnessing the immune system to improve cancer therapy	Jul 2016	23
Zhang	Variable selection with stepwise and best subset approaches	Apr 2016	22
Abdelaal <i>et al.</i>	Morbidity and mortality associated with obesity	Apr 2017	21
Moris <i>et al.</i>	The role of reactive oxygen species in myocardial redox signaling and regulation	Aug 2017	21

and have so impressively contributed to the success of the journal.

This is indeed a brilliant dawn for *ATM*. However, after a reasonable celebration, the Editorial Board members and the Editorial Office will soon redouble their efforts to make *ATM* a better and more professional academic platform, so that an even brighter future can be carved. Indeed, our main target will remain the publication of high-quality research aimed at translating laboratory discoveries into useful clinical applications, thus ultimately contributing to generate radical changes to diagnostic health strategies and ultimately improving prediction, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases.

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The author has no conflicts of interest to

declare.

Ethical Statement: The author is accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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