

TOWARD A NEW ERA OF THE NAGOYA JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE: MESSAGE FROM THE NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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It is my great pleasure and honor to serve as the new editor-in-chief of the Nagoya Journal of Medical Science (NJMS) following in the footsteps of Prof. Nobuyuki Hamajima. On this occasion, we decided to make several changes to enhance the value of this long-standing journal in the field of medical science. As many readers are aware, papers in the NJMS appear in the PubMed database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>). On April 23, 2010, we launched a website for this journal (http://www.med.nagoya-u.ac.jp/medlib/nagoya_j_med_sci/) (Fig. 1) in collaboration with our Medical Library. This will allow anyone to read any paper published in the NJMS since 1993 free of charge as soon as it is published. We would like to stress that this innovation provides a valuable forum for the timely dissemination of ideas, observations and data that will be readily available to doctors and scientists all over the world. Of course, you can claim your originality with papers published in the NJMS.

We would also like to somewhat widen the scope of this journal. The founding statement announced that the Journal will publish original reports of studies in the areas of medical science and its related fields, together with reviews, symposia, short communications, notes, and references. To these, we would like to add case reports and hypotheses, both of which are now becoming more and more difficult to publish in other publications in English. It is our belief that NJMS can also play a valuable role in expanding the archives of precious human cases and original hypotheses based on sound observations. Our emphasis will be on the quality of the case reports and hypothesis papers. Those failing to meet with the highest standards will be rejected.

Lastly, allow me to mention some historical aspects and the past achievements of the NJMS. The contributions of former editors of this journal have been summarized in an editorial penned by Prof. Nobuyuki Hamajima in 2006.¹⁾ After a thorough search of the medical library, we were fortunate enough in April of this year to find a copy of the premier publication of this journal. The reason it was not found much earlier was that it was published under the different name of the "Aichi Journal of Experimental Medicine" in 1923 (Fig. 2). We only came across its current title in the 2nd volume in 1927 (Fig. 3). Figure 4 shows the number of NJMS articles and the total number of times the journal was cited. The NJMS paper most frequently cited in the literature was authored by Yamada Y *et al.* and published in 1969. It was cited 38 times.

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Fig. 1 Home page of the Nagoya Journal of Medical Science.

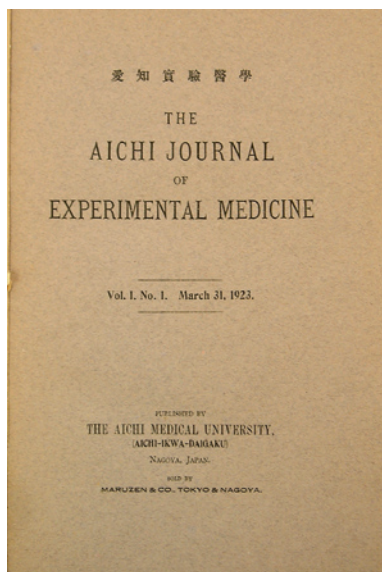


Fig. 2 First issue (cover) of the Nagoya Journal of Medical Science that was started in 1923 under the name of the Aichi Journal of Experimental Medicine.

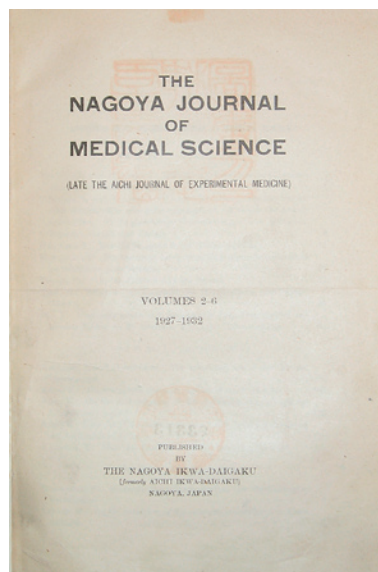


Fig. 3 The cover of the Nagoya Journal of Medical Science in 1927.

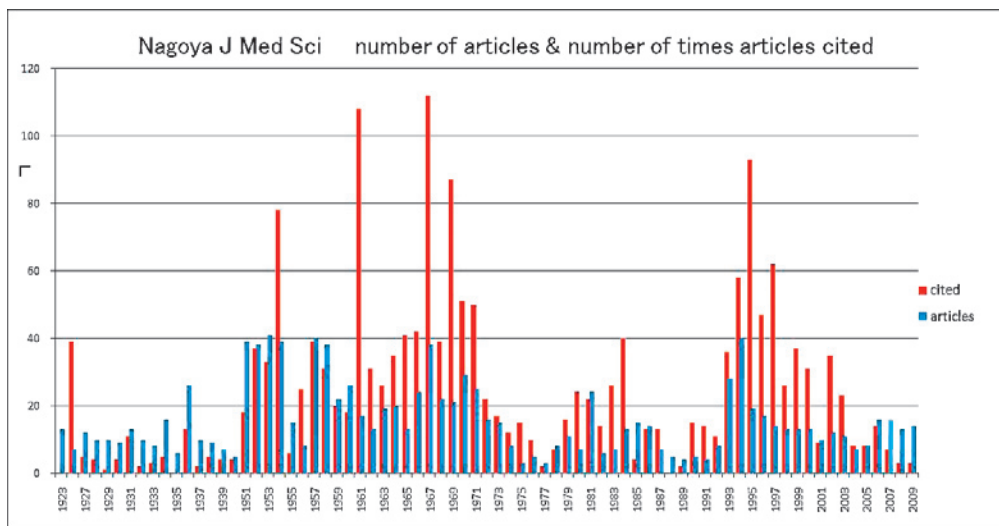


Fig. 4 Number of articles and total number of citations for the articles published each year.

We must be more sensitive to citations of our own publications than to the impact factor of the journal in which they were published, since data reveal that it is the h index, a combination of citations and the number of papers, which indeed predicts the future scientific achievements of the researcher.²⁾ For a journal, a high impact factor positions every paper for easier recognition. First of all, the acquisition of NJMS impact factor is a worthy target because it assures greater readership and will attract more and more outstanding submissions.

We look forward to your contributions and welcome not only your research papers and review articles but also case reports and submissions with interesting hypotheses. We expect that submissions from abroad would also increase, and we are already preparing accordingly.

REFERENCES

- 1) Hamajima, N. Message from the new editor-in-chief. *Nagoya J Med Sci*, 2006; 68: 97–99.
- 2) Hirsch, JE. Does the H index have predictive power? *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 2007; 104: 19193–19198.