NZMJ’s impact factor

We ask about the citations of articles in, and impact factor associated with, the *New Zealand Medical Journal* (NZ Med J).

Until the *Journal* went electronic, it was rated by Journal Citation Reports (JCR) with the journal impact factor mostly within the range 0.6 to 0.7. Immediately after the print edition ceased, citations to NZ Med J in Science Citations Index fell noticeably.

A search (September 2010) of the JCR website shows that NZ Med J no longer appears on the list of journals currently monitored. Further, a search on the website (or ISI Web of Knowledge or Web of Science) for articles published in the *Journal* finds none published since mid-2002. Those articles that do have citations are to articles published before mid-2002 in print. The article by Derek Smith could be seen as supporting this when in his article about NZ Med J’s most cited articles, all those with “classical” status were published in print form, none since moving electronic.

On a brighter note, Medline, PubMed, and the more recent Scopus tool (articles only since 1996) do include articles published in the electronic version of the *Journal*. Scopus’ SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) that reports the value of weighted citations per document currently rates NZ Med J as 0.063.

In comparison, the Medical Journal of Australia is rated at 0.176, the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health at 0.127, and the Australia and New Zealand Health Policy, 0.070. It also provides a normalised impact per paper published (SNIP) in which NZ Med J rates at 0.221, compared to the Medical Journal of Australia at 0.735, the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health at 0.629, and the Australia and New Zealand Health Policy, 0.399.

Given the climate of emphasis on publications for academic advancement and PBRF funding, it is important to researchers that their work is cited and that it appears in journals with a high impact factor. That authors continue to submit to the journal may well reflect a wish that their work is used to inform local policy and practice. Nonetheless, non-inclusion of the journal in JCR will increase the likelihood that authors choose to submit to other journals.

Has the editorial committee tried to rectify this problem with JCR?

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