

Editorial

Assessment of *International Psychogeriatrics*

Given the recent change in leadership at *International Psychogeriatrics* (IP), the editorial staff felt it was a good time to review where the journal has been in the last few years and how it is regarded both by International Psychogeriatric Association members and by the wider geriatrics community. The following special article was completed as part of an overall review of IP in 1997. Specifically, the article quantifies how the journal compares to others in the geriatrics field.

Completing this work proved somewhat methodologically challenging. Most quantitative research on scientific periodic literature is completed by or with the assistance of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). The ISI publishes a variety of reference products available in many libraries, including *Current Contents*, *Journal Citation Reports*, and the *Science Citation Index*. Although these products present powerful tools for evaluating journals and research, they have shortcomings with particular consequences for IP and other geriatric psychiatry journals. Neither IP nor any other journal primarily dealing with geriatric psychiatry is included in any of the ISI products. Because these products are the quantitative basis for virtually all cur-

rent ranking and evaluation schemes, it is difficult to compare IP alongside other journals of any kind. This assessment addresses these issues by examining several journals not included in ISI products.

To evaluate geriatric psychiatry journals, the authors of the following assessment used a modified version of the citation analysis technique employed by the ISI. Citation analysis produces impact factors that are commonly used to rank or compare journals with others in the field. As the authors of the assessment point out, although IP has many strengths, there is room for improvement in several areas. The editorial staff are committed to making many of these changes to improve the quality and reputation of the journal. In the next year, you will continue to see some of the changes being made to *International Psychogeriatrics*. We encourage anyone with comments about the changes and overall direction of the journal to contact the editorial staff.

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