

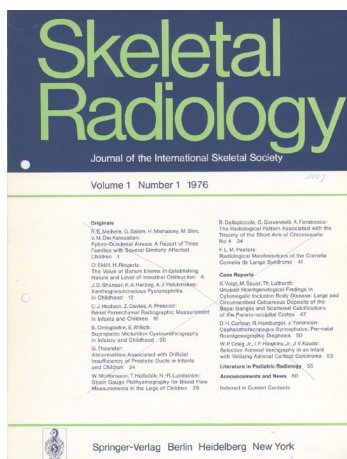
SKELETAL RADIOLOGY The History

The journal has been an integral factor in the society since its inception. The initial Steering Committee, at its early meetings, recognised the need for a permanent record initially of the proceedings of the society which very soon translated into what has become a first class peer reviewed journal.

The Steering Committee approved in principle that a Journal be published six times a year and that this Journal would include the cases presented at the Annual Meetings of the ISS, in addition to articles on skeletal radiology and allied disciplines. Drs Edeiken, Murray and Jacobson were appointed as Editors-in-Chief together with an Editorial Board comprised of 37 members of the Society. Dr Edeiken, was to be responsible for manuscripts from North America; Dr Murray was to be responsible for manuscripts from the remainder of the world and Dr Jacobson was to be responsible for the Case Reports Springer Verlag Inc was selected as the publisher of the Journal and discussions were initiated with its President, Dr Heinz Gotze,

After considerable discussion, a number of meetings, Volume 1, Number 1, of the New Journal designated as SKELETAL RADIOLOGY – the Journal of the International Skeletal Society was published in September 1976. The initial format was that 30% of the Journal would be devoted to Case Reports and that the remainder should comprise original articles relating to skeletal radiology and allied disciplines. It was to be a quarterly magazine with approximately 64 pages per issue. .

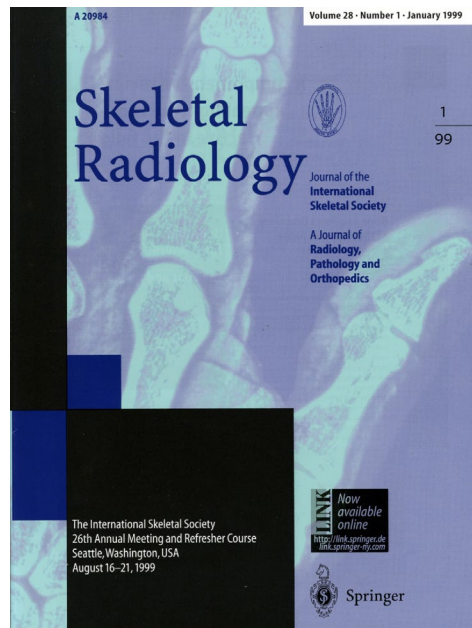
The Editorial in the inaugural issue set out the goals of the journal as the official organ of the International Skeletal Society and outlined the format that the new journal would take. It emphasised the need for a journal as a “ forum for the dissemination of current knowledge and information dealing with disorders of the skeleton”.



By 1978 the subscription rate had reached 1000 and subsequently there was a gradual increase to 1200 in 1993.

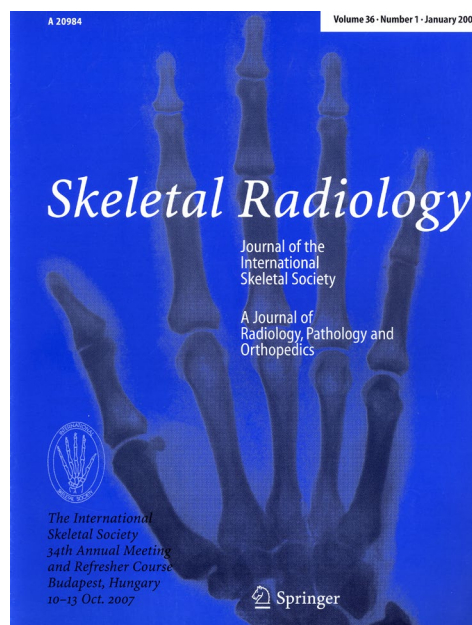
In 1985 Jack Edekein and Ronald Murray relinquished their roles as North American and non-American editors respectively and were succeeded by Drs Ted Keats and

Dennis Stoker. The number of annual issues was doubled from 4-8 with an increase of 20 pages per issue.



1997 marked the 20th Anniversary of the Journal and the introduction of several significant developments. The journal publication was extended to 12 issues per year with at least 64 pages per issue. The goal of the Editorial Board at that time was for a publication time of 6 months for Original Articles and 8 months for Case Reports. Fixed terms of appointment for Editors and members of the Editorial Board were set at 5 years with possible extensions at the discretion of the Editor in the Board. Drs Ted Keats and Dennis Stoker relinquished their posts of North American and non American Editors respectively and were replaced by Dr Jeremy Kaye and Dr Iain McCall. Dr Kaye's position of Case Reports Editor was then taken by Dr Murali Sundaram.

1997 was also the year that an electronic version of the journal became available "on-line". The advent of the electronic era was to be a quantum leap for the Journal: Full texts, illustrations, indices and Abstracts were readily available to Society members.

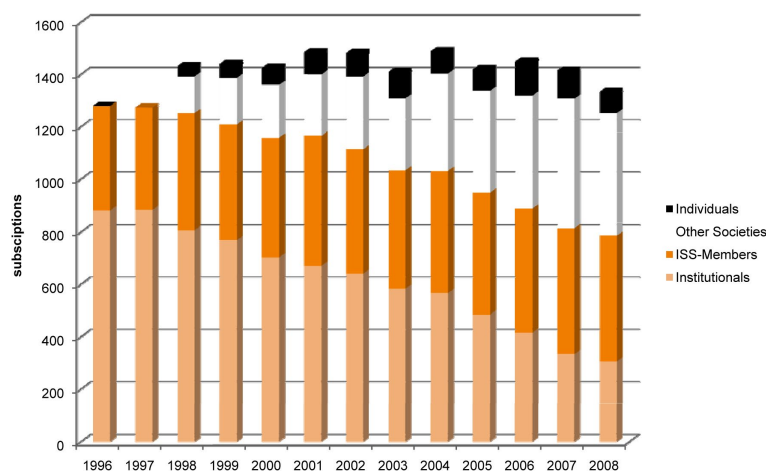


In 2000 on-line publication was introduced. At that time the average period from receipt of a paper/case was 9 months. The following year the average editorial processing time was 6 months with a further publication time of 1.7 months. There was a further improvement with the introduction of on-line manuscript reviews in 2003. Subsequently all aspects of journal publication were performed on-line with significant cost savings in publication and reduction in editorial and publishing processing times. Issues were still divided into 67% Original Articles and 33% Case Reports.

The move to electronic publishing had other consequences in relation to journal subscriptions. Whilst the individual subscriptions to Skeletal Radiology remained fairly stable (at about 1500), there was a significant decrease in institutional subscriptions. However many institutions were “subscribing” to the journal by means of consortia thereby increasing the overall potential access to the journal’s scientific content.

Furthermore the on-line facility also resulted in an overall increase in the number of manuscript submissions.

Development of Print Subscriptions 



as of Dec 2008

In 2005 full colour illustrations were made available and Abstracts of other society meetings such as the ESSR and SSR were included in the journal. Dr Kaye stepped down as North American Editor and was replaced by Dr Sundaram, and Dr Daniel Rosenthal was appointed as Editor for Case Reports. The following year Dr Iain McCall completed his term as non-American Editor and his place was taken by Dr Juerg Hodler

By this time the journal had increased its volume content to 1000 pages. A forward link option was included in the on-line access so that members were able to access

their papers to assess the number of “hits” that were received. By 2007 publication time had been reduced to 4 months

In 2008 three new components to the journal were added – Perspectives, Test Yourself,

and Browser’s notes. The following year Editorial Manager was adopted as the Electronic online process. Publication times had further improved with Papers appearing online 2-3 months after acceptance. Full-text downloads had also increased over time, from 105k (in 2006) to 134k (in 2007), to 154k (in 2008).

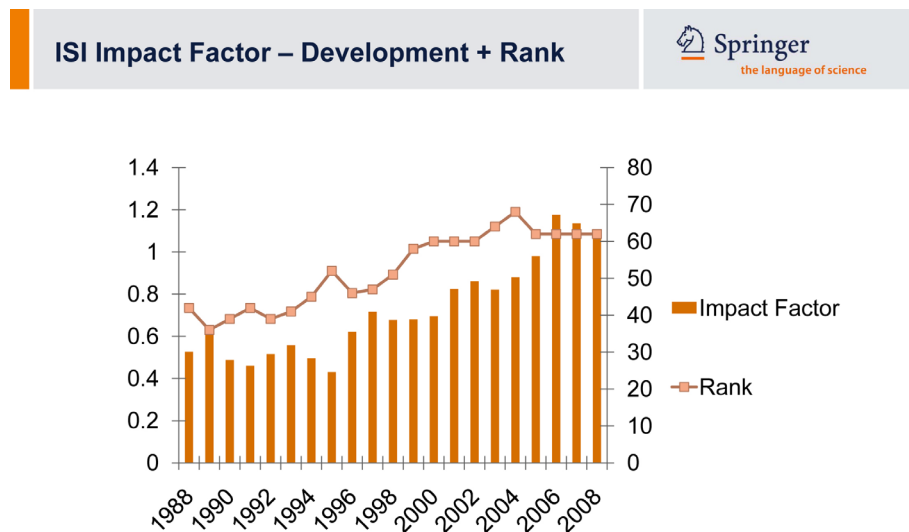
Despite an acceptance rate of 30% in 2010 and the rapid online turnaround of manuscripts some manuscripts did not appear in the print Journal for six months or longer due to page restrictions.

The Journal has been a financial asset to the ISS having generated a net income to the Society of over a million US dollars for the three years 2007-2009.

The success of the Journal is a tribute to the foresight of the founding fathers and the drive of the successive Editors All this could not have been achieved without the partnership with Springer-Verlag and in particular Dr Heinz Gotze and Ute Heilmann.

Impact Factor and *Skeletal Radiology*

The Impact Factor (IF) of journals is a controversial subject. Simply stated, the IF is a calculation based upon the number of citations to a given journal in a given year and on the number of items published in the journal in the previous two years.



IF 2008: 1,085
Rank 74 out of 90

Over the years, the IF of *Skeletal Radiology* has increased, a generally positive factor; in 1988, the IF was 0.527, in 1998, the IF was 0.678, in 2006, the IF of the journal exceeded 1 for the first time at 1.176 and the current impact factor is 1.568. *Skeletal Radiology* currently ranks at 58th among other imaging journals. However, when these same metrics in terms of citations and articles published are used to make calculations over a five year period, our journal ranks among the top five of all imaging journals.

In the more than three decades since *Skeletal Radiology* was first published, the Editors of our journal have always followed the published IF of our journal, recognizing that there have been many valid criticisms of the IF, including how it is calculated and the ways that it is used and misused by authors and institutions. The Editors have had a consistent philosophy throughout the history of the journal, a philosophy congruent with that of the founders of the International Skeletal Society when the journal was established. The Editors have held to the belief that the IF is not a true measure of the usefulness of our journal and not a true measure of the value of individual published articles, and have held that the content of the journal should not be altered or manipulated in ways to increase the IF. On the contrary, the Editors have believed that more meaningful measures of the success of our journal are to be found in how our journal meets the needs and desires of the members of the International Skeletal Society and other readers of the journal, and in how our journal publications inform and help those interested in the diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal disorders. The fact that the publisher and the Editors intend to increase the number of articles and pages from 2011 and produce a 100 page print Journal from January 2011 (Volume of 1200 pages): is further evidence that the Journal's philosophy is not driven by the Impact factor.

Skeletal Radiology is currently circulated among five thousand institutions through consortia in addition to its print version, with nearly one-third of the readership found almost equally in North America, Europe and in Asia.

Editors

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