EDITORIALS

The Best of *JGIM*

When I began my service as Editor in 1999, my goal was for *JGIM* to continue to be “the best journal to read for anyone who wants to know about the state of the art of research, teaching, and patient care in general internal medicine.”¹ To give readers a sense of where the *Journal* stands with respect to this goal, I examined the use and impact of the articles that appeared in *JGIM* in the last few years. This analysis gave me an opportunity to identify the articles that have had the greatest use and impact—the best of *JGIM*!

In the past it has been difficult to measure the use of journal articles. Now that *JGIM* has entered the electronic age, I decided to measure the use of articles by obtaining information from our publisher about the number of times that an article is accessed through the *Journal*’s Web site. Although this is an imperfect measure that underestimates total usage, it does provide an objective measure of usage. Table 1 identifies the 26 articles that were accessed more than 100 times in 2002.

Journals traditionally have used the Institute for Scientific Information’s (ISI) database to measure the impact of the articles they publish.² The ISI calculates an impact factor for each journal based on the mean number of times that recent articles in a journal were cited in a given year. Recent articles are defined as those published in the 2 years preceding the year of an ISI report. *JGIM* had an impact factor of about 2.4 in 2001 and 2000 compared to about 2.1 in the 3 previous years.² Based on the impact

factor in 2001, *JGIM* was ranked 17th among 112 general and internal medicine journals. Table 2 identifies the top 24 articles that have contributed the most to *JGIM*’s impact factor. Each of these articles has been cited at least 6 times since publication.

The articles identified in Tables 1 and 2 demonstrate very nicely the rich variety of original research articles that have been published in *JGIM*. I was delighted to see that many of the research articles have been cited and accessed frequently. I also was pleased to see that 7 of the most popular articles shown in Table 1 were reviews. While only 2 review or perspective articles were cited often enough to appear in Table 2, 15 review or perspective articles were cited 3 or more times in the literature. In contrast, only 1 medical education article was accessed often enough to make the list in Table 1 and only 2 medical education articles were cited often enough to make the list in Table 2. Exploring this further, I found that 10 medical education articles were among the top 100 articles by Web accesses and 10 were cited at least 3 times.

Taking all of this information into consideration, I selected 3 articles that represent the best of *JGIM* in each of 3 categories: original research, medical education, and reviews/perspectives (see Table 3). By publicly recognizing the authors of these articles, I seek to reaffirm *JGIM*’s commitment to publishing the best articles on research, teaching, and patient care in general internal medicine.—
ERIC B. BASS, MD, MPH, Editor.

Table 1. Top *JGIM* Articles by Number of Web Site Accesses in 2002

Author, Year	Title	Type of Article	Number of Web Accesses
Atlas, 2001 ³	Evaluating and managing acute low back pain in the primary care setting	Review	255
Walsh, 2000 ⁴	Detection, evaluation, and treatment of eating disorders	Review	216
Steinman, 2001 ⁵	Self-restriction of medications due to cost in seniors without prescription coverage	Research	212
O'Malley, 2000 ⁶	Treatment of fibromyalgia with antidepressants	Review	190
Wang, 2002 ⁷	Noncompliance with antihypertensive medications	Research	188
Kroenke, 2001 ⁸	The PHQ-9: validity of a brief depression severity measure	Research	186
Ioannidis, 2001 ⁹	Evidence on interventions to reduce medical errors	Review	175
Balk, 2001 ¹⁰	Strategies for diagnosing and treating suspected acute bacterial sinusitis	Review	166
Bokhour, 2001 ¹¹	Sexuality after treatment for early prostate cancer: exploring the meanings of “erectile dysfunction”	Research	141
Keating, 2002 ¹²	How are patients’ specific ambulatory care experiences related to trust, satisfaction, and considering changing physicians?	Research	131
Goldman, 1999 ¹³	Awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of depression	Review	128
Edelman, 2002 ¹⁴	Screening for diabetes in an outpatient clinic population	Research	127
Katz, 2000 ¹⁵	Impact of obesity on health-related quality of life in patients with chronic illness	Research	125

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

Author, Year	Title	Type of Article	Number of Web Accesses
Lesar, 2002 ¹⁶	Prescribing errors involving medication dosage forms	Research	124
Weisse, 2001 ¹⁷	Do gender and race affect decisions about pain management?	Research	120
Gandhi, 2000 ¹⁸	Drug complications in outpatients	Research	120
Corbie-Smith, 1999 ¹⁹	Attitudes and beliefs of African Americans toward participation in medical research	Research	119
Rollman, 2002 ²⁰	A randomized trial using computerized decision support to improve treatment of major depression in primary care	Research	118
Forrest, 2002 ²¹	Managed care, primary care, and the patient-practitioner relationship	Research	110
Greenberg, 1998 ²²	Management of breast fibroadenomas	Review	110
Srinivasan, 2002 ²³	Early introduction of an evidence-based medicine course to preclinical medical students	Education	109
Walsh, 2001 ²⁴	Predictors of physical activity in community-dwelling elderly white women	Research	105
Wang, 2000 ²⁵	Recent care of common mental disorders in the United States: prevalence and conformance with evidence-based recommendations	Research	103
Hebert, 2001 ²⁶	Patient perspectives on spirituality and the patient-physician relationship	Research	103
Weisbord, 2001 ²⁷	Is warfarin really underused in patients with atrial fibrillation?	Research	103
Fremont, 2001 ²⁸	Patient-centered processes of care and long-term outcomes of myocardial infarction	Research	103

Table 2. Top JGIM Articles by Number of Citations Since Publication

Author, Year	Title	Type of Article	Number of Citations
Wang, 2000 ²⁵	Recent care of common mental disorders in the United States: prevalence and conformance with evidence-based recommendations	Research	23
Gandhi, 2000 ¹⁸	Drug complications in outpatients	Research	19
Haas, 2000 ²⁹	Is the professional satisfaction of general internists associated with patient satisfaction?	Research	16
Dwight-Johnson, 2000 ³⁰	Treatment preferences among depressed primary care patients	Research	14
Whooley, 2000 ³¹	Randomized trial of case-finding for depression in elderly primary care patients	Research	13
Rost, 2001 ³²	Improving depression outcomes in community primary care practice	Research	12
Linzer, 2000 ³³	Managed care, time pressure, and physician job satisfaction: results from the Physician Worklife Study	Research	12
Mancuso, 2000 ³⁴	Effects of depressive symptoms on health-related quality of life in asthma patients	Research	12
Friedmann, 2000 ³⁵	Screening and intervention for alcohol problems	Research	12
Meigs, 2000 ³⁶	Cardiovascular disease prevention practices by U.S. physicians for patients with diabetes	Research	11
Borowsky, 2000 ³⁷	Who is at risk of nondetection of mental health problems in primary care?	Research	10
O'Malley, 2000 ⁶	Treatment of fibromyalgia with antidepressants	Review	9
Curtis, 2001 ³⁸	Understanding physicians' skills at providing end-of-life care	Research	9
Pearson, 2000 ³⁹	Patients' trust in physicians: many theories, few measures, and little data	Perspective	8
Morgan, 2000 ⁴⁰	Randomized, controlled trial of an interactive videodisc decision aid for patients with ischemic heart disease	Research	8
Estrada, 2000 ⁴¹	Cost-effectiveness of low-molecular-weight heparin in the treatment of proximal deep vein thrombosis	Research	8
Green, 2000 ⁴²	Evidence-based medicine training in internal medicine residency programs	Education	7
Katz, 2000 ¹⁵	Impact of obesity on health-related quality of life in patients with chronic illness	Research	7
Schmittiel, 2000 ⁴³	Effect of physician and patient gender concordance on patient satisfaction and preventive care practices	Research	7
Jablonover, 2000 ⁴⁴	Evaluation of a national curriculum reform effort for the medicine core clerkship	Education	6
Lafata, 2000 ⁴⁵	The cost-effectiveness of different management strategies for patients on chronic warfarin therapy	Research	6
Chew, 2000 ⁴⁶	A physician survey on the effect of drug sample availability on physicians' behavior	Research	6
Stone, 2001 ⁴⁷	Relation of physician specialty and HIV/AIDS experience to choice of guideline-recommended antiretroviral therapy	Research	6
Cook, 2001 ⁴⁸	Problem drinking and medication adherence among persons with HIV infection	Research	6

Table 3. The Best of JGIM by Type of Article

Author, Year	Title	Type of Article
Wang, 2000 ²⁵	Recent care of common mental disorders in the United States: prevalence and conformance with evidence-based recommendations	Research
Gandhi, 2000 ¹⁸	Drug complications in outpatients	Research
Rost, 2001 ³²	Improving depression outcomes in community primary care practice	Research
Green, 2000 ⁴²	Evidence-based medicine training in internal medicine residency programs	Education
Srinivasan, 2002 ²³	Early introduction of an evidence-based medicine course to preclinical medical students	Education
Branch, 2000 ⁴⁹	Supporting the moral development of medical students	Education
O'Malley, 2000 ⁶	Treatment of fibromyalgia with antidepressants	Review
Pearson, 2000 ³⁹	Patients' trust in physicians: many theories, few measures, and little data	Perspective
Walsh, 2000 ⁴	Detection, evaluation, and treatment of eating disorders	Review

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