The NHJ 2012 in retrospect: which articles are cited most?

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December is always a good month to look back. For this occasion, this holds in particular for our Netherlands Heart Journal. The achievements of a journal are predominantly judged by its impact factor, despite its shortcomings [1]. As described earlier, the 2011 impact factor of the Netherlands Heart Journal amounted to 1.438 [1, 2]. In 2009, our journal received an impact factor for the first time which has remained rather stable over the past 2 years: 1.392 in 2009, and 1.447 in 2010.

However, it should be a rewarding exercise to improve the impact factor in 2012 and thereafter [3–5]. This will be determined by the citations (cites) in 2010 and 2011 divided by the number of articles published in 2010 and 2011. In 2010 we published 132 articles and we have had a total of 285 cites until now (based on the available data in the Web of Science on 1 November 2012). In 2011, 142 articles were published and we have had 78 cites so far. Nevertheless, the true 2012 impact factor will not be available until June 2013, when we will really know the total number of cites for the articles that appeared in the Journal from January 2010 until the December 2011 (in total 22 issues). Therefore, we have to rely on the true number of

citations in 2010 and 2011 versus the published items ('source items') in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

For the sake of this occasion, we were curious which articles from the years 2010 and 2011 have attracted the most cites. We analysed these data and have constructed two tables with the top-10 cited articles from both 2010 and 2011 (based on the available data in the Web of Science on 1 November 2012). Table 1 shows the top-10 of the most cited NHJ articles published in 2010, and Table 2 shows the top-10 of the most cited NHJ articles published in 2011. There were of course more cites to articles published in 2010 [6–15] versus 2011 [16–25]. In 2010 we had 80 cites and in 2011 32 cites. Of the 20 articles that were cited, 19 were original articles or review articles, indicating that those categories of articles yield the most cites. Based on Tables 1 and 2, it is clear that the number of cites should be considerably increased to improve our impact factor.

We have therefore two recommendations for authors of publications in our journal: 1) send your good work to our journal (preferably originals and reviews), and 2) also cite our journal in other indexed journals when there are publications in our journal on the same topic.

Other categories of publications that substantially deliver cites are papers such as Guidelines, Consensus Statements, Study Group Reports, and Task Force Documents. We are therefore pleased that our national society, the Netherlands Society of Cardiology (NVVC,) has decided to publish guidelines in our journal. As can be learned from the Web of Science, guidelines generally yield a large number of cites. So hopefully we will publish a vast amount of national guidelines in the future, increasing the number of cites and thereby improving our impact factor.

I wish you all a nice, productive, and citable 2013.

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Table 1 Top 10 of the most cited NHJ articles published in 2010 according to the first author, reference number and number of citations; in total 80 cites were registered (source Web of Science, 1 November 2012)

Number	Author and reference	Citations
1	Freund C, reference [6]	15
2	Knaapen P, reference [7]	14
3	Groothuis JG, reference [8]	11
4	Germans T, reference [9]	10
5	Zhang LJ, reference [10]	8
6	Van den Branden BJ, reference [11]	8
7	Przybylski A, reference [12]	6
8	Van der Horst IC, reference [13]	6
9	Van der Wall EE, reference [14]	6
10	Van Langen I, reference [15]	6

Table 2 Top 10 of the most cited NHJ articles published in 2011 according to the first author, reference number, and number of citations; in total 32 cites were registered (source Web of Science, 1 November 2012)

Number	Author and reference	Citations
1	Voskuil M, reference [16]	5
2	Janssens AC, reference [17]	5
3	Kraaier K, reference [18]	5
4	Ophthof T, reference [19]	4
5	Van Ditzhuijzen NS, reference [20]	3
6	Breet N, reference [21]	2
7	Pieper PG, reference [22]	2
8	Luijendijk P, reference [23]	2
9	Heemstra HE, reference [24]	2
10	Weustink AC, reference [25]	2

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