Moving Further Forward: My Expectations for the *Korean Journal of Radiology* as I Finish Tenure as the Second Editor-in-Chief of the Journal

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I hope it would be 'Leaving the Golden Legacy of Editorship to the Succeeding Editor' as I complete my 8-year tenure as the editor-in-chief (EIC) of the *Korean Journal of Radiology* (KJR) from February 2005 to October 2013.

It was my hope to successfully finish my given tenure as an EIC, which was definitely a privilege to me, spanned for a total of eight years. My predecessor as an EIC was Dr. Jung-Gi Im, who was the founding editor and whose tenure lasted from 2000 to 2005. Although it was not an intention, two consecutive EICs were chest radiologists. The following third EIC is Dr. Yeon Hyeon Choe, a cardiac radiologist.

During my tenure, rebranding was conducted so that the front page of the journal could appear more rejuvenated as well as contain one of the most intriguing figures chosen from papers published in each issue of the *KJR*. Color texts were used for the running head and subheadings in each page. A new home page provided more diverse journal fact sheets. Further, a new review platform (manuscript central) offered the finishing touch for manifesting the entire *KJR*

outward figure to be more internationalized. The current *KJR* articles (the whole text file of articles, because the *KJR* became an open access journal) are exposed to various search engines. Readers can identify which articles are most frequently cited, and those fact sheets are regularly updated. Thus, the current *KJR* is equipped with sound infrastructure. More importantly, the *KJR* has become an open access journal so that readers and printing companies can freely download the entire content of text files and figures and tables, under the stipulation that they do not use the data for commercial purposes.

Timely publication is the most crucial virtue of a journal. With such a well-established infrastructure and foothold in terms of review and publication, it is the role of the editorial office to publish the journal on time or even somewhat earlier than the expected time (via electronic publication). Otherwise, the journal will be read and cited less frequently.

Given more than 80% of the manuscripts are submitted from other countries and moreover, most of the foreign manuscripts come from countries where the mother tongue is not English, the role of reviewers or section editors are very important. To select good and publishable papers from those submitted is just like finding a pearl from dug soil. The reviewers and section editors should be alert in finding good manuscripts that have not only scientific merits, but are also written in sound English. On the other hand, it is also very important to cultivate young and good reviewers. By having regular editorial symposia or workshops, people related to editorial works can discuss the most effective

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ways of reviewing the submitted manuscripts.

I should mention somewhat on the impact factor (IF) of the *KJR*. Although the citation of a certain journal changes greatly related to its investigator size and reader number, a journal's IF is still a critical measure of the scholarly impact on a certain journal. The IF of the *KJR* has been reported from 2003 (citation number of articles published in years 2000, 2001, and 2002), when it was 1.783. The IF portrayed a continuous decline for five years; after then, it went down to 1.049 in year 2008. The IF bounced back from 2009, having a higher mark of 1.555 in year 2012. I believe more than 90% of manuscripts submitted to the *KJR* are often rejected by other higher ranked journals. Therefore, there is a difficulty of selecting papers for publication with high scientific merit. Again, it is the role of the reviewers and section editors to carry out such important tasks successfully. According to my experience, when one first encounters and reads a manuscript submitted to a certain journal, it is not easy to judge whether or not the manuscript has high scientific merit. Thus, it is recommended that when one reads a manuscript that has yet unknown scientific merits, but appears to have something new constructed in a scientifically sound way, one should have an open mind to accept the manuscript and allows the authors to polish up the paper in order to make the manuscript more legible. One more important

thing is that the five-year IF (1.917 in year 2012) of the *KJR* has been generally higher than its two-year IF. This implies that the articles published in the *KJR*, despite the still humble IF of the journal, are continuously cited for several years by various journals.

I believe that in the near future, the *KJR*, as an Asian representative, will have a higher IF than ever before and be more readable by publishing more Asiatic papers and data (such as Asia-specific epidemiologic and image data). Although online download or usage rates and journal's IF are not directly interrelated, increasing online downloads or usage rates is expected to increase *KJR*'s IF. Hence, efforts should be made to render readers to download the entire text of published articles by exposing the whole content of the journal to various search engines. Readers are more eager to be accustomed to recent megatrends or knowledge of radiology, particularly in Asia; thus, publishing high-quality review articles is one of the reasonable ways of rendering services to readers. Journals which are publishing case reports are declining in number. However, good cases with beautiful images are important assets of radiology in general. Therefore, although case reports generally do not contribute much to increasing a journal's IF, I hope that *KJR* would remain to publish case reports as long as they have unusual novelty and clinical impact.