



IMPULSE

An Undergraduate Journal for Neuroscience

THE VALUE OF PUBLISHING IN UNDERGRADUATE NEUROSCIENCE EDUCATION: THE ROLE OF *IMPULSE*

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Introduction

Post-secondary school programs are evolving to look more like graduate education, with students expected to participate in authentic, primary research. However, their work often is not published, or becomes part of a larger work submitted by the mentor. A more complete research experience would include the opportunity for these young scholars both to write and review manuscripts. The journal *IMPULSE* (<http://impulse.schc.sc.edu>; hosted at the University of South Carolina) was created to fill this need.

IMPULSE is an online, international journal for research reports and reviews from student neuroscientists, typically 17-23 yrs old. Started in 2003 (*Soc. Neur. Abs.* 29:25.3; first issue 2004, *Soc. Neur. Abs.* 30:28.6), it shifted to rolling submission and annual archiving in 2005 (*Soc. Neur. Abs.* 31:20.19), 2006 (*Soc. Neur. Abs.* 32:26.13), and 2007 (*Soc. Neur. Abs.* 33:26.13). The *IMPULSE* review team members are from around the world, helping promote student appreciation for scientific transnationalism. All submissions are written by postsecondary (but not graduate) students; *peer* review is by an international review team, made up of 'undergraduate' students from over 15 universities overseen by the Faculty Advisors.

Neuroscience faculty may find the journal a useful mechanism to mentor pre-graduate students through an authentic publishing experience of writing, submitting, and revising. Further, faculty wanting can use the manuscript reviewing process and work with *IMPULSE* review-team students at their institution as a method to teach experimental design, scientific writing, ethics in communications, etc. (see course suggestions in JUNE Spring 2006 Vol.4 (2) <http://www.funjournal.org/results.asp?juneid=159>). Learning about publishing is an important component of scientific education and direct experience of this process is useful to faculty mentors and their students wishing to complete the scientific process from proposal to paper.

Recent growth for the journal has included listing with the Directory of Open Access Journals and the creation of additional Reviewer Training Sites at Middlebury College (Kim Cronise, Faculty Advisor) and Appalachian State University.

Supported by the South Carolina Honors College, the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, School of Medicine, University of South Carolina, Middlebury College, and Appalachian State University Heltzer Honors Program.

History

- January 2003** M. Wilkinson recruited to found the new journal along with A. Autry, L. Helmick, and S. Roudsari.
- Spring 2003** Peer Reviewers recruited; *IMPULSE* logo and website created, *IMPULSE* presented at 1st SYNAPSE meeting.
- July 2003** Website opened for submissions for first issue.
- Fall 2003** *IMPULSE* debuted at Society for Neuroscience meeting (*Soc. Neur. Abs.* 29:25.3).
- July 1, 2004** First issue posted online.
- Fall 2004** *IMPULSE* presented at SfN (*Soc. Neur. Abs.* 30:28.6).
- Spring 2005** First editorial team transition; C. Warren E-i-C.
- Fall 2005** 2005 issue presented at SfN (*Soc. Neur. Abs.* 31:20.19).
- Spring 2006** Redesign of *IMPULSE* website for rolling publication: *IMPULSE* presented at the 2nd SYNAPSE meeting.
- Fall 2006** Publicity Editors created; ISSN # request completed. 2006 issue presented at SfN (*Soc. Neur. Abs.* 32:26.13).
- Spring 2007** *IMPULSE* presented at 3rd SYNAPSE meeting; second editorial transition completed, B. Goodlett 3rd EiC.
- Summer 2007** *IMPULSE* presented at 7th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience in Melbourne, Australia, by B. Goodlett.
- Fall 2007** 2007 issue presented at SfN (*Soc. Neur. Abs.* 33:26.4).
- Winter 2007** *IMPULSE* invited to join Directory of Open Access Journals; second Reviewer Training Site opened at Middlebury College with Dr. Kim Cronise joining as a Faculty Advisor to *IMPULSE*.
- Spring 2008** *IMPULSE* presented at 4th SYNAPSE meeting.
- Summer 2008** A. Walton becomes 4th EiC. Third Reviewer Training Site opened at Appalachian State University Heltzer Honors Program.

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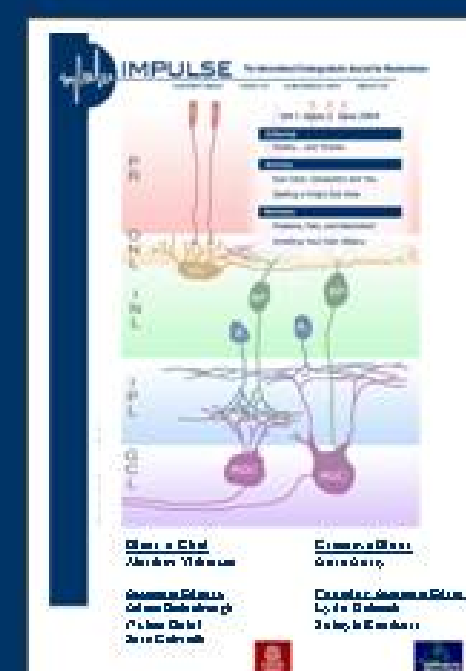
Zeeshan Khaliq

Site hosted at the University of South Carolina
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2004 issue



2005 issue



2006 issue



2007 issue