Introduction

**IMPULSE** is an online, international journal for research reports and reviews from student neuroscientists, typically 17-23 yrs old. It gives students the opportunity to submit and publish their neuroscience research so that they can experience the entire research process, while providing an outlet for student work that often goes unpublished. **IMPULSE** also offers a mechanism for students to learn about the reviewing, editing, and publishing (posting) side of science as well.

The peer reviewing is done by student teams at the host institution (where they are required to take a Scientific Publishing class; see Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education, Spring 2006) and at over 20 other institutions across the globe. The reviews from students at other schools, domestic and international, are included by the International Editors and all reviewers have the option of receiving comments on their reviews from the Faculty Advisor.

The rationale for creating **IMPULSE** was that learning about publishing is an important component of a scientific education. Direct experience of this process will prove useful to students wishing to complete the scientific process from proposal to project to paper. Ancillary evidence from student authors and reviewers indicates that submitting and refereeing manuscripts promotes a practical understanding of scientific writing and publishing that will be valuable in their future careers. Writing up their own research results, as well as publishing and peer reviewing the work of others, appears to result in a greater commitment to the scientific process for both authors and reviewers respectively, as well as a greater interest in neuroscience generally. Faculty at other institutions are encouraged to use the course and **IMPULSE**, or a similar model, to foster professional development in neuroscience programs.

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**History**

Late January 2003  M. Wilkinson recruited to found the new journal.
Spring 2003  National and International Peer Reviewers recruited; **IMPULSE** logo designed; website designed with William Morris (IT advisor). **IMPULSE** presented at the first SYNAPSE meeting.
July 2003  Website opened for submissions for first issue.
Fall 2003  **IMPULSE** debuted at Society for Neuroscience meeting (Soc. Neurol. Abs.: 29:25:3).
July 1, 2004  First issue posted online!
Spring 2005  First Editorial transition occurred as founding team graduated; Cade Warren became the second Editor-in-Chief. New International Editor position created.
Spring 2006  **Redesign of IMPULSE** and website for rolling publication of submissions: articles posted as soon as accepted in final form. **IMPULSE** presented at the second SYNAPSE meeting.
Fall 2006  New positions for Publicity Editors created; LOCKSS archiving request in process; ISNN request completed. Team presents at SIN for fourth year (Soc. Neurol. Abs.: 32:26:13).
Spring 2007  **IMPULSE** presented at the third SYNAPSE meeting. Second Editorial transition completed with third Editor-in-Chief, Ben Goodlett, overseeing the staff. Additional International, Associate, and Publicity Editors added in response to increasing need.