Introduction

Too often, research done by undergraduates goes unpublished; this research is done to fulfill a thesis requirement or merely to participate in research, but the fact remains that this work goes unreported. Impulse is part of an effort to change that situation and help bring undergraduates into the mainstream of neuroscience research. Impulse will be an international, online journal for undergraduates to report research in the Neurosciences. The entire review process from submission of the manuscript to publication of each issue will be done electronically, and all by the international undergraduate review and editorial board.

This journal will serve a two-fold purpose: 1) allow undergraduates who do research in the neurosciences to experience writing a manuscript, submitting it, and responding to review, and 2) give those interested in the publishing side of the process valuable experience in reviewing, editing, and online publishing. These are opportunities that undergraduates rarely receive, and should help interest and recruit young neuroscientists worldwide.

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History

January 2003 M. Wilkinson recruits editorial board and weekly meetings begin
February-April 2003 National and International Peer Reviewers recruited; Impulse logo designed; website design with William Morris (IT Advisor) begun; process for online journal submission created, including ethical guidelines
May 2003 Editorial Board introduces Impulse at the first SYNAPSE meeting (James Madison Univ.)
July 2003 Opening of submissions for first issue
August 2003 Editorial Board begins weekly meetings with the six local reviewers and Faculty Advisor (L.S. Jones); preparations for review and editing process; weekly email contact with international review board on journal progress
October 2003 First submissions begin to arrive
November 2003 Editorial Board presents Impulse at Society for Neuroscience meeting

Future

January 2004 First issue to be published online
Spring 2004 Begin recruiting for additional, international reviewers; seek funding support for a meeting of all reviewers and for a dedicated server
Fall 2004 Posting of second issue; plan international meeting of all reviewers, perhaps to be repeated annually, ideally concurrent with SfN meeting

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