Introduction

Impulse is an international, online journal for research reports and reviews from undergraduate neuroscientists. It is intended to give students the opportunity to submit their neuroscience research so that they experience the entire research process, including publication. Impulse offers an outlet for students’ work, which often goes unpublished. It also provides a mechanism for students from around the world to learn about the reviewing, editing, and publishing (posting) side of research as well. The entire editorial and review board is drawn from 17-23 year-old students internationally.

The reviewing is done by student teams at the host institution (where they are required to take a Scientific Publishing class), with the faculty advisor overseeing the process. The comments of the international reviewers are included by the International Editor, while reviews from other U.S. schools are added by the Executive Editor. All remote reviewers have the option of receiving the faculty advisor’s comments on their review if they would like.

The first issue was posted in July, 2004, and the second issue, 2005, is still open for postings, with two articles published and two in revision. In the Spring 2005 the journal went through a major site revision so that articles could be posted immediately upon acceptance and not wait for an “issue” of articles to accrue. This makes the time-to-posting possibly as short as three months. It is hoped that this will encourage more submissions and allow Impulse to continue to grow and serve this population of dynamic, future neuroscientists and their mentors.

Supported by the South Carolina Honors College, University of South Carolina.

History

Late January 2003

M. Wilkinson recruited founding editorial board and they begin to create the new journal.

Spring 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 and moral guidelines. Editorial Board introduced IMPULSE at the first SYNAPSE meeting (James Madison Univ.).

July 2003

Website opened for submissions for first issue at [http://impulse.schc.sc.edu](http://impulse.schc.sc.edu)

Fall 2003

Editorial Board began weekly meetings with the six local reviewers and Faculty Advisor (L.S. Jones); made preparations for review and edit process; weekly email contact with international review board on journal progress. First submissions began to arrive. Editorial Board presented IMPULSE at Society for Neuroscience meeting (Soc. Neur. Ab. 29:253).

July 1, 2004

First issue posted online!!

Fall 2004

Recruiting for additional, international reviewers; new, local reviewers joined the team. Submissions for second issue arriving and being reviewed. Plans for first transition formulated as founding team prepares to graduate in spring.

Spring 2005

Redesign of IMPULSE and website for rolling publication of submissions: articles posted as soon as accepted in final form. The founding team turned over the management of the journal to a new wave of editors and reviewers, with Cade Warren becoming the second Editor-in-Chief.

Summer 2005

New, rolling publication version of IMPULSE up and running. First papers posted up.