Introduction

The journal IMPULSE was started by four undergraduate students and one faculty member in the spring of 2003. The first issue was posted in 2004, and a total of nine issues have been published annually, the latest of which is in 2013. The journal has received a name change from IMPULSE to one journal in 2012, with an added focus on international research. The journal has been expanded to a total of 15 issues, including three during the spring of 2013. Most recently, an additional two issues were added (Wake Forest U., CS).

An average of 3.4 papers per year have been published by the journal. Approximately twice as many are submitted each year, with some being reviewed but not accepted by the authors and others not reviewed due to inappropriateness of topic. The journal has been submitted to 35 journals, with 16 papers published, 25.7% of which were from South Africa, 5.6% from Spain, and 1.4% from Russia. Five countries were represented.

The majority of respondents were individuals (46.4%), followed by those who also served in an editorial role (44.4%), and RTB team members (25.6%). Most reviewed 3-5 papers. The majority reviewed 10-15 hours/month (40.9%), with 31.8% at 0-5 hours, and 10-15 hours, and 11.2% reporting 1-2 papers. Most reviewed 10-15 hours/month (40.9%), or 0-5 hours (31.8%) or 10-15 hours (11.2%)

Methods

The names of all previous reviewers, editorial team members, and authors from the previous 10 years of IMPULSE were collected. An attempt to find online contact information for them was undertaken with a survey was created and submitted to the RTB and the IMPULSE website.

Most experienced reviewer training through a course (41.4%), or informal mentoring through an IMPULSE group (54.6%), with others having mentoring through a lab group (55.8%), the online tutorial (9.1%), or none (31.9%). Most expected spending 3-6 hours/month reviewing manuscripts (48.3%), with 31.8% at 5-10 hours/month, 22.7% at 10-15 hours, and 10.9% at 0-5 hours, and one respondent each for 15-20 and over 20 hours/month.

Most reported spending up to 5 hours/month reviewing manuscripts (40.9%), with 31.8% at 0-5 hours, 22.7% at 10-15 hours, and 10.9% at 15-20 hours. Most reported spending 1-3 hours/month reviewing manuscripts (40.9%), with 31.8% at 0-5 hours, 22.7% at 10-15 hours, and 10.9% at 15-20 hours. Most reported spending 0-5 hours/month reviewing manuscripts (40.9%), with 31.8% at 0-5 hours, 22.7% at 10-15 hours, and 10.9% at 15-20 hours. Most reported spending 0-5 hours/month reviewing manuscripts (40.9%), with 31.8% at 0-5 hours, 22.7% at 10-15 hours, and 10.9% at 15-20 hours.

Historical of IMPULSE


2006: IMPULSE at 2nd SYNAPSE meeting; IMPULSE at 17th IBRO World Congress in Barcelona, Spain; IMPULSE at the 4th SYNAPSE in Melbourne, Australia; IMPULSE at the 3rd SYNAPSE in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

2007: IMPULSE at 3rd SYNAPSE, 7th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience in Melbourne, Australia, and SfN (Soc. Neur. Abs). 14-0038). The 26-question survey was launched using SurveyMonkey and sent to 152 addresses. Many of the addresses were sent back as invalid, but 45 responses have been received to this point, which is a 29.6% response rate. Response analysis was performed with SurveyMonkey.

While the conclusion is drawn from this small, first study after a decade of work that working on IMPULSE is seen as useful below (an “ambiance” that works on it), during their undergraduate years. It is an option for students who do not have the time or opportunity to do laboratory research and can serve as a means for faculty to provide some level of authentic research experience, at least on the publication side of science.

Discussion

Most Strongly Agreed that it improved their ability to read scientific papers and that they would recommend the experience to others; they also indicated that they felt it had a positive influence on their lab experience. The data chart illustrates what these IMPULSE alumni are currently doing, with the largest number pursuing Ph.D. (26.19%), followed by currently working in research (22.7%).

The respondents completed their undergraduate programs in 2005-2013 and reported reviewing 2-4 manuscripts/year, excepting 2011 (7), 2012 (8), and 2013 (8). They were from 13 universities and there were 20 seniors and 25.5, Demographically described as White, Caucasian, one as African-American, one as Indian, two as US in origin, one from Africa, two Hispanic, and one from Greek-Cypriot. Five countries were represented.

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