Introduction

Impulse is an online, international journal for research reports and reviews from undergraduate neuroscientists. It is intended to give students the opportunity to submit their neuroscience research so they can experience the entire research process, including publication. Impulse offers an outlet for students' work, which often goes unpublished. It 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 and reviews from other U.S. schools are included by the International 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 was recently archived. The new, 2006 issue is now open for articles and the first article posted. The journal’s first major team transition occurred in Spring of 2005, and the new team helped design the site revision so that articles could be posted immediately upon acceptance. This makes the time-to-posting possibly as short as two 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 began to create the new journal.

Spring 2003
National and International Peer Reviewers recruited; IMPULSE logo designed; website design with William Morris (IT advisor) began; process for online journal submission created, including ethical 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

Fall 2003
Editorial Board, local reviewers, and Faculty Advisor made preparations for review and edit process; contact established with international reviewers. First submissions began to arrive. Editorial Board presented IMPULSE at Society for Neuroscience meeting (Soc. Neur. Abs. 29:25-S).

July 1, 2004
First issue posted online!!

Fall 2004
Recruiting for additional, international reviewers; new, local reviewers joined the team. Plans for first Editorial transition formulated as founding team prepares to graduate in spring.

Summer 2006
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.

Winter 2006
Second issue (2005) archived, and 2006 issue open for posting with one article up and five under review.

Spring 2006
Team transition plans underway as seniors graduate.

Impulse@schc.sc.edu

http://impulse.schc.sc.edu