

IMPULSE

AN ONLINE, INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR NEUROSCIENCE REPORTS WRITTEN,
EDITED, AND PUBLISHED BY UNDERGRADUATES

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Introduction

Impulse is a new, international and online journal for undergraduates to report research in the Neurosciences. It is intended to give undergraduates the opportunity to submit their own neuroscience research and experience the entire research process from planning to publication. Research done by undergraduates often goes unpublished, and *Impulse* offers an outlet for their work and a mechanism to bring undergraduates into the mainstream of neuroscience research. The journal is an opportunity for undergraduates to learn about the reviewing, editing, and publishing (posting) side of research as well. The entire editorial and review board is drawn from undergraduates at institutions across the country and from around the world. Since the whole review process from submission of the manuscript to publication of each issue is done electronically, all of the international undergraduate review and editorial board can participate.

The first issue was posted in July, 2004, and contained four articles: two original research articles and two literature reviews. While it is hoped that more of the submissions in future will be original work, issues such as timing and willingness of mentors to have their students submit to a non-mainstream journal will continue to be challenges. Literature reviews are more easily obtained and have proven so far to be excellent sources of submissions, but the original goal was to promote undergraduate experimental research and the editorial board continues to look at ways to encourage those submissions.

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

History

Late January 2003	M. Wilkinson recruited 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 and moral guidelines
May 2003	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
August 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
October 2003	First submissions began to arrive
November 2003	Editorial Board presented IMPULSE at Society for Neuroscience meeting (Soc. Neur. Abs. 29:25.3)
Spring 2004	Continued soliciting and reviewing articles
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

Review Board

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