

## Oświadczenie Europejskiego Stowarzyszenia Redaktorów Naukowych (European Association of Science Editors — EASE) w sprawie niewłaściwego stosowania wskaźników oddziaływania (IF, *impact factors*)

Wskaźnik oddziaływania czasopisma (IF, *impact factor*) powstał jako narzędzie pomiaru oddziaływania czasopism naukowych [1, 2]. Z czasem jego wykorzystywanie zostało rozszerzone do określania jakości czasopism naukowych, jakości poszczególnych artykułów oraz wydajności naukowej poszczególnych badaczy [3, 4]. Wskaźniki oddziaływania wykorzystywane są dzisiaj również w procesie przyznawania stopni i stanowisk naukowych, przy ocenie aplikacji o granty badawcze, bądź przy przyznawaniu innych form wsparcia finansowego programów badawczych [5, 6].

Jednak wskaźnik oddziaływania nie zawsze jest rzetelnym narzędziem oceny jakości czasopism [7, 8]. Ponadto posługiwanie się tym kryterium w celach niezgodnych z jego pierwotnym przeznaczeniem staje się przyczyną jeszcze większej nierzetelności [9-12].

Dlatego też European Association of Science Editors zaleca, aby kryterium wskaźnika oddziaływania czasopisma posługiwać się wyłącznie — i to z wielką ostrożnością — do oceny i porównywania jedynie wpływu czasopism jako takich, a nie do oceny poszczególnych prac. Z pewnością zaś nie należy go wykorzystywać do oceniania badaczy lub programów badawczych, tak bezpośrednio (*directly*), jak i zastępczo (*as a surrogate*).

[Cytaty i źródła]

1. "The 'impact factor' is similar to the quantitative measure obtained by Gross in evaluating the relative importance of scientific journals [...]"

Garfield E. Citation indexes for science. A new dimension in documentation through association of ideas. *Science* 1955; 122: 108–111.

2. "Measures of citation frequency and impact factor should be helpful in determining the optimum makeup of both special and general [library journal] collections".

Garfield E. Citation analysis as a tool in journal evaluation. Journals can be ranked by frequency and impact of citations for science policy studies. *Science* 1972; 178: 471–479.

3. "While the IFS [impact factor score] was designed to assess journals, there are frequent mentions in the literature of the IFS being used as an indicator of the eventual impact of a scholar's work".

Holden G, Rosenberg G, Barker K, Onghena P. Should decisions about your hiring, reappointment, tenure, or promotion use the impact factor score as a proxy indicator of the impact of your scholarship? *Medscape Gen Med* 2006; 8: 21.

4. "[...] the Higher Education Funding Council in Britain came to understand that it was assessing science in a fundamentally unscientific way by using the impact factor of journals as a surrogate for the impact of articles published in them".

Smith R. Commentary: the power of the unrelenting impact factor — is it a force for good or harm? *Int J Epidemiol* 2006; 35: 1129–1130.

5. "Evaluationsgrundlage sind die Impactfaktoren [bzw. die Journal-Reihungen] aus der unveränderten Impactfaktor-Liste des ISI, jeweils letzte verfügbare Ausgabe zum Zeitpunkt des Einreichsdatums zur Habilitation. Die Publikationen der/s Habilitand/in/en werden getrennt nach Erstund Koauthorschaften".  
[The basis for evaluation are the impact factors (respectively the journal rankings) from the unchanged impact factor list of ISI, always the most recent available issue at the time of submitting the application. The publications of the applicant are distinguished in first authorship and co-authorship].

Habilitationsrichtlinien der Medizinische Universität Wien [Guidelines for qualification as a university teacher at the Medical University of Vienna]. Wien: Medizinische Universität Wien; 2004.

6. "Universities in Germany, for instance, regularly plug the impact factor of journals in which scientists publish into formulae to help them determine departmental funding. The Italian Association for Cancer Research requires grant applicants to complete worksheets calculating the average impact factor of the journals in which their publications appear. [...] [In Finland] government funding for university hospitals is partly based on publications points, with a sliding scale corresponding to the impact factor of the journals in which researchers publish their work".

Adam D. The counting house. *Nature* 2002; 415: 726–729.

7. "All citation studies should be adjusted to account for variables such as specialty, citation density, and half-life".

Garfield E. The history and meaning of the journal impact factor. *JAMA* 2006; 295: 90–93.

8. "Apart from being non-representative, the journal impact factor is encumbered with several shortcomings of a technical and more fundamental nature. [...] Pure technicalities can therefore account for several-fold differences in journal impact".

Seglen PO. Why the impact factor of journals should not be used for evaluating research. *BMJ* 1997; 314: 498–502.

9. "The IFS [impact factor score] was the best predictor of both short- and long-term impact [of journal articles], yet even when the IFS was combined with other predictors, the overall amount of variance in both short- and long-term impact was less than 13%".

Holden G, Rosenberg G, Barker K, Onghena P. Should decisions about your hiring, reappointment, tenure, or promotion use the impact factor score as a proxy indicator of the impact of your scholarship? *Medscape Gen Med* 2006; 8: 21.

10. "Indeed, of 38 million items cited from 1900-2005, only 0.5% were cited more than 200 times. Half [of the published articles] were not cited at all [...]. The skewness of citations is well known and repeated as a mantra by critics of the impact factor. [...] The use of JIFs [journal impact factors] instead of actual article citation counts to evaluate individuals is a highly controversial issue. Granting and other policy agencies often wish to bypass the work involved in obtaining citation counts for individual articles and authors. [...] Thus, the JIF is used to estimate the expected count of individual papers, which is rather dubious considering the known skewness observed for most journals".

Garfield E. The history and meaning of the journal impact factor. *JAMA* 2006; 295: 90–93.

11. "[In Finland] a single paper published in a journal with an impact factor of 3, rather than 2, could have boosted a hospital's funding by about US\$ 7 000 in 2000".

Adam D. The counting house. *Nature* 2002; 415: 726–729.

12. "Even the uncited articles are then given full credit for the impact of the few highly cited articles that predominantly determine the value of the journal impact factor. [...] However, the correlation between journal impact and actual citation rate of articles from individual scientists or research groups is often poor".

Seglen PO. Why the impact factor of journals should not be used for evaluating research. *BMJ* 1997; 314: 498–502.

Oświadczenie dostępne jest też na oficjalnej stronie European Association of Science Editors: [www.ease.org.uk](http://www.ease.org.uk).