Editorial

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Looking Back at 2022 and ahead to 2023 for the *Korean Journal of Radiology*

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In this editorial, I will briefly review some of the *Korean Journal of Radiology* (*KJR*) activities in 2022, and give a glimpse of what the readers and authors may expect for 2023.

Looking back at 2022, *KJR* experienced a significant increase in the two-year journal impact factor (JIF), published annually by Clarivate Analytics, from 3.5 to 7.109, which may be the first (if not the most important) thing that comes to mind of many people. Unlike its name, JIF has multiple pitfalls as an index of a journal's impact [1]. Furthermore, JIF is not the only metric of scholarly citations as several other related indices exist, such as CiteScore [2], Scimago Journal Rank [3], and h-index [4]. Nevertheless, in general, authors still strongly consider JIF when determining where to submit their research studies [5].

Similar to *KJR*, substantial increases in JIF were noted across numerous journals in various fields of medicine and science, including radiology, infectious diseases, respiratory medicine, general/internal medicine, etc. While the increase in JIF may be attributed to various factors, it cannot be denied that a substantial fraction was due to the number of studies on COVID-19, as they affected acutely and massively scholarly publications and citations [5-14]. As the COVID-19 pandemic is now ending, and the two-year JIF is calculated by the number of citations to articles published

in each journal over a preceding two-year period [15], the acute inflation of JIF will likely decrease in the coming years. Until then, the authors may want to be careful when considering JIF.

Regardless of the changes in *KJR*'s JIF, I am confident that the quality of *KJR* improved in 2022 compared with the preceding year. Indeed, *KJR* has continuously been trying to improve the journal's quality and standards for published articles. As a result of the heightened standards, the number of articles *KJR* published decreased from 199 in 2021 to 135 in 2022, lowering the journal's acceptance rate (currently at approximately 13%). However, as the submissions to *KJR* are gradually increasing, with increasing submissions of higher quality manuscripts, I suspect that *KJR* is likely to see more articles published and a slight increase in the acceptance rate in 2023. As an effort to improve the journal's quality, *KJR* recently published a few articles that guide to help improve the quality of research manuscripts for a few specific areas, including reporting of survival analysis, odds ratio and hazard ratio, and systematic review and meta-analysis [16-18]. *KJR* will continue to expand on this effort in 2023 and may publish similar guides for authors and reviewers, specifically regarding studies of radiomics and artificial intelligence (AI), and regarding general critical review of the literature, similar to some guides from other journals [19-21].

Another notable change in *KJR* in 2022 was the increased number of brief articles published. These include focused or mini-reviews, expert opinion or perspective types of articles, and commentaries [16-18,22-33]. Publication of these brief articles is in consideration of a recent trend in scientific publication. These brief pieces are expected to be helpful in addressing rapidly evolving topics, compared to traditional comprehensive extended review articles. Furthermore, the importance of commentary-type editorial articles is recently

highlighted [34]. Articles in this category are typically written by the most knowledgeable individuals in the field to explain research studies in a manner that is easier for most readers to understand and put into context. These editorials may be a new and quick way for most readers to keep up with a particular issue/field. *KJR* occasionally published commentary-type articles to help readers identify and digest critical information created outside *KJR* or even outside the radiology field [23,24,26,28,31,33], instead of studies published in *KJR* [27,35]. Starting early 2023, *KJR* plans to publish more commentary-style articles for noteworthy studies published in *KJR*.

AI was a dominant topic for *KJR* in 2022, and will most likely remain a prevalent topic in 2023. In 2022, *KJR* noted a shift of focus of AI research studies from the development to post-development clinical evaluation of AI algorithms [36-41]. As the interest in the clinical implementation of AI continues to increase, *KJR* expects increasing submissions and publications of studies on post-development clinical evaluation of AI [42], instead of the "traditional" study format of algorithm training and testing. Another new development regarding the scientific publication of AI research studies is the availability of reporting guidelines for research studies of AI in medicine, which have recently been published or are soon to be published [43-48]. *KJR* strongly recommends that authors refer to these guidelines for the reporting and design of their studies and will consider them for the journal's scientific peer review and publication.

Finally, *KJR* saw an increased number of submissions in 2022, with the improved quality and status of the journal, which approached 1000 manuscripts, even without the effects of COVID-19. The increase made executing peer view in a timely manner more challenging. However, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our reviewers, we have been maintaining the average time to a first decision under four weeks (amazingly, it was 18 days for some time). The need for rapid peer review is growing with the increasing speed and amount of scientific information delivery enabled by continuously improving information technology and networking. Therefore, *KJR* will continue to try to review the manuscript without delay, as we believe that reducing the review duration is the right move to serve the authors who submit manuscripts to *KJR* more adequately. I appreciate the efforts and contributions of the reviewers very much.

KJR's editorial team always strives to make *KJR* more up-to-date, informative, and enjoyable while keeping in mind

the best interest of its readers and authors. We hope you find *KJR* more valuable and trustworthy for your research and practice in 2023.

Conflicts of Interest

The author has no potential conflicts of interest to disclose.

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