**ABSTRACT**

We developed a new index of "publication efficiency" for biomedical journals. This index, called the Rete Index of Publication Efficiency (RIPE), is based on a multifactorial value rubric of journal quality. The RIPE was computed as the sum of ascending ranks (higher ranks = higher values) of the journal in each of the following categories:

- Impact factor (IF)
- Reach, which is a measure of the number of subscribers (print and electronic) and website traffic by researchers (other than the authors of the journal)
- Articles per year (APA)
- Time from submission to print publication (days)
- Articles per year divided by days to publication (days)
- Articles per year divided by the square root of the number of subscribers
- Articles per year divided by the square root of the number of subscribers squared

We divided the total number of journal ranks by the square root of the number of subscribers to conform to the IFnorm. In addition, we weighted the reach by the square root of the number of subscribers to conform to the IFnorm.

We introduced RIPE as a comprehensive index of publication efficiency to assess and improve the publication performance of biomedical journals. RIPE scores were computed for 146 biomedical journals, including 70 cardiology journals, 79 internal medicine journals, and 146 oncology journals. The highest RIPE scores among the top 20 were in oncology, followed by internal medicine and cardiology. The range of RIPE scores exceeded that of IF values. Most raw (i.e., unranked) values for IF were distributed according to a negatively skewed distribution, with a small proportion of articles accounting for a large majority of IF. In contrast, the RIPE scores were more evenly distributed.

**RESULTS**

We compared the RIPE with the IF for each journal. The highest RIPE scores among the top 20 were in oncology, followed by internal medicine and cardiology. The range of RIPE scores exceeded that of IF values. Most raw (i.e., unranked) values for IF were distributed according to a negatively skewed distribution, with a small proportion of articles accounting for a large majority of IF. In contrast, the RIPE scores were more evenly distributed.

**CONCLUSIONS**

RIPE is a new and novel index of "publication efficiency" which is computed as Journal Influence * Reach / Time. RIPE data are correlated with other bibliometric variables, such as IF and EGF, but show a broader upward trend and may be superior in describing publication performance in the field of medicine.

**REFERENCE**