

Big shoes to fill

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Human Reproduction Update (HRU) is currently the highest-ranking journal in the fields of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology. This success is because authors send their best manuscripts to this journal and that the Editors and the Editorial Office have done a professional job. The evolution of HRU's Impact Factor (IF) since 2002 can be seen in Fig. 1. The 2017 IF was 11.85 which is very high for a journal in a comparatively narrow field. As the new Editor-in-Chief, I am acutely aware that it will be a challenge to fill the big shoes of my predecessors; Bob Edwards, Bart Fauser, John Collins and Felice Petraglia.

The other ESHRE journals, *Human Reproduction*, *Molecular Human Reproduction* and *Human Reproduction Open* all publish new research and the latest findings. The role and scope of a review journal is different; here the authors shall give an overview of current knowledge in a given field. When published data is not conflicting, the authors should try to give a balanced view and present current understanding. To rewrite a common proverb: the authors of a review article shall aim at describing the wood and not only the trees. To me a review journal is about education. If we are successful, the articles published in HRU will become a reference for young professionals in training as well as the experienced senior professional. As educational material, the Grand Theme Reviews will perhaps be of particular value. Grand Theme Reviews were introduced by Felice Petraglia and I want to develop this concept even further.

In my young days I was a coach for teenagers training to become the best in their particular sport. Since then I have met many professionals working as coaches, psychologists and administrators at the absolute top international level in sports. Like in sports, a high-ranking scientific

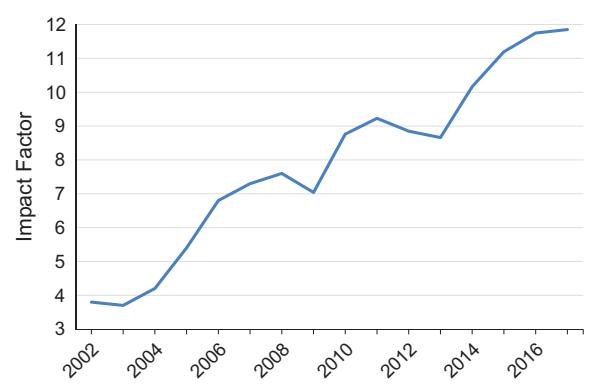


Figure 1 Evolution of Impact Factor for Human Reproduction Update from 2012 to 2017.

journal engages in friendly, but serious, competition. The aim is to be the best. The team in a scientific journal is comprised of the authors, the referees, the editorial board and the editorial office. I see my role as the Editor-in-Chief as a coach that shall inspire the team to do their best for a collective goal. In sports we often say to team members: "your best performance is an inspiration for other team members to perform even better". The stars in our team are our authors. The role of the Editors and the Editorial Office is to give first class support to our stars.