

# Imaging Neuroscience: Journal Statement on Impact

This statement discusses the rationale for starting the open access non-profit journal Imaging Neuroscience, its relationship to NeuroImage, and considerations around journal reputation and impact metrics. Because PhD committees, promotion boards, and grant panels may not know the background of this editorial journal transition, we hope that this brief statement will provide useful context, particularly where these bodies rely on impact metrics for their evaluations.

## Background

In April 2023, all 43 editors of the journals NeuroImage and NeuroImage:Reports resigned. One month later, the same editorship launched Imaging Neuroscience. NeuroImage had long been the leading journal in the field of neuroimaging with respect to the quality and quantity of published papers, but the publication fee was set at a level that the editors (and the neuroimaging community) found unethical and unsustainable. The publisher of NeuroImage, Elsevier, had been unwilling to reduce the fee after much discussion. This led us to launch Imaging Neuroscience with MIT Press, intended to replace NeuroImage as our field's leading journal. We see Imaging Neuroscience as the successor to NeuroImage, but with greater control by the academic community over the adoption of modern and ethical publishing practices, including publication fees. **The scope, quality threshold, and editorial team are identical to the combination of NeuroImage and NeuroImage:Reports prior to our resignation.** For more details see our opening [Editorial](#).

The Imaging Neuroscience [Editorial Team](#) comprises an Editor-in-Chief, 11 Senior Editors and 31 Handling Editors; this is an extremely committed set of editors who are leaders in our field. In addition, we have an Editorial Board of over 60 respected academics that provides a wider pool of experience and expertise to advise the core editorial team on strategic planning and serve as a “trusted reflection” of the state of the field as a whole.

## Journal Progress

The response to our announcement was both extremely positive and expansive; within a few days, the announcement had been viewed 2 million times. The positive reaction was not just from our field: people across academia responded by expressing support and suggesting that journals in other fields undertake a similar change. Within a few days, over 1,200 researchers signed up to review for Imaging Neuroscience. **In less than a year after launching, we have received 800 submissions and published 150 high-quality research papers.** We are accepting around 35% of all submitted papers, after rigorous peer review (most often with 2-3 rounds of review). The research community has put its faith in the Imaging Neuroscience editorship, and has “moved with us” to the new journal.

We understand that for many researchers, publishing in high-impact journals is often viewed as an important milestone for career advancement. With this in mind, we anticipate releasing additional information regarding journal impact metrics for Imaging Neuroscience within the next few years. Imaging Neuroscience is already listed on DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals). MIT Press has applied for the journal to be indexed in PubMed, and once this is completed, all new and already-published papers will be indexed there. Similarly, we have applied to be listed in Scopus and Web of Science / ESCI / Journal Citation Reports (JCR).

## Conclusion

It takes 3 years for a new journal to be given a JCR Impact Factor. **We trust that in the meantime, PhD admission and evaluation committees, tenure and promotion boards, and grant panels will appreciate that authors publishing in Imaging Neuroscience are seen as publishing amongst the best work in our field, in a highly-regarded, groundbreaking academic peer-reviewed journal.**

**Prof Stephen Smith, Oxford University, Editor-in-Chief, Imaging Neuroscience (on behalf of all Editors)**  
**Dr Amy Brand, Director and Publisher, MIT Press**