

EDITORIAL

ARS Turns Fifteen: *la quinceañera bonita*

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Abstract

ARS was aimed at advancing the erstwhile *niche* field of redox biology to a more central position in research. Currently, *ARS* ranks first (impact factor: 8.456) in the field of redox biology. Of 8336 journals listed in Journal Citation Reports, *ARS* ranks 205th. The next journal in redox biology ranks 449th. *ARS* ranks 169th of 8336 in immediacy index. The next journal in redox biology ranks 923rd. Thus, *ARS* is the primary source of hot papers in redox sciences and healthcare. To grow footprint and overall impact, *ARS* has nearly doubled the annual publication volume from roughly 200 to 400 in one year. Because the manuscript volume represents the denominator of the impact factor calculation, such a sharp increase in volume would be predicted to a proportionally lower impact factor. Because of the robust current upward momentum, *ARS* will be affected less than that predicted by simple arithmetic and will maintain its top position even after such aggressive volume expansion. As another year passes, the additional manuscripts will get more time to be cited, and therefore the impact factor is expected to bounce back resulting in a much stronger journal with a substantially enhanced overall presence. *ARS* currently publishes 36 issues annually as two series: **ARS-Discoveries**, and **ARS-Therapeutics**. Redox biology does have the potential of major health impact. **ARS-Therapeutics** is the first and only forum dedicated to highlight that strength. I am grateful to the global redox village for their unreserved support to raise *ARS* and this fascinating field of redox research and healthcare. *Antioxid. Redox Signal.* 18, 1–4.

DURING THE LAST DECADE AND A HALF, a large community of redox scientists stood behind the cause of raising *ARS* as the best performing journal in its class. The goal was to entrust *ARS* with the responsibility to advance the erstwhile *niche* field of redox biology to a more central position in mainstream biological and medical sciences. Today, the *ARS* manuscript central data records over 16,000 contributors. Propelled by momentous advances in redox sciences, today *ARS* holds its head high delivering on promises of a strong communication platform of the redox community. Ever since *ARS* received the first impact factor in 2003, the citation index has only gone up—never side-ways and never down (Fig. 1). In addition, it has significantly contributed to the impact factor of other journals in the discipline elevating the overall field of study to a higher level of general recognition. This is a credible milestone in our ongoing journey and reflects the extraordinary commitment of *ARS* authors, reviewers, the editorial board, and the publisher.* At present, *ARS* ranks first

*The first volume of *ARS* was published as a quarterly in 1999. In 2010, it expanded to a two-volume per-year publication, leading the Journal to 18 volumes by 2013.

in the field of redox biology, it has been that way for several years uninterrupted. Of 8336 journals listed in the current Journal Citation Reports published by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), *ARS* ranks 205th. The next journal in the discipline of redox biology is ranked 449th. When you read an *ARS* publication, you cite it urgently because it helps develop your own research. *ARS* ranks 169th of 8336 in immediacy index. Immediacy index is a measure of how topical and urgent work published in a scientific journal is. Figure 2 depicts the immediacy index of two other prestigious journals in biomedical research. By immediacy index, the next journal in the discipline of redox biology is ranked 923rd. It is thus evident that *ARS* is the primary source of hot papers in redox biology and medicine because they are urgently cited. Roughly, half of all manuscripts published in *ARS* come from the United States. The rest of the world contributes the other half. With contributions from almost 50 different countries, *ARS* has established itself as a truly international journal (Table 1).

Growth and success comes with increased responsibility. We are responsible to grow the *ARS* footprint such that it may

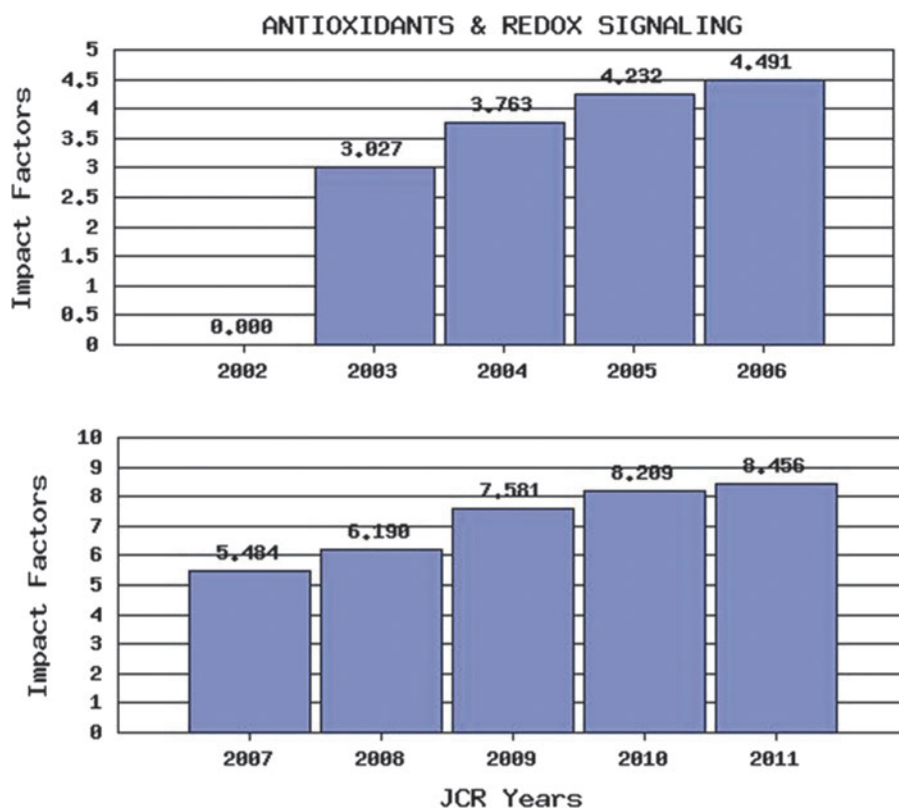


FIG. 1. Impact factor over time. JCR, Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports.

have a much broader impact on mainstream biomedical sciences. One strategy to substantially increase the footprint is to publish a larger volume of high-quality manuscripts every year, while not substantially compromising the impact factor. No other journal in redox biology has ever broken the barrier of seven in the impact factor. *ARS* did and is fully committed to stay much above seven long terms. Because manuscript volume represents the denominator of the impact factor calculation, any sharp increase in volume is arithmetically predicted to proportionally lower the impact factor. Because of the robust current upward momentum, *ARS* will be affected

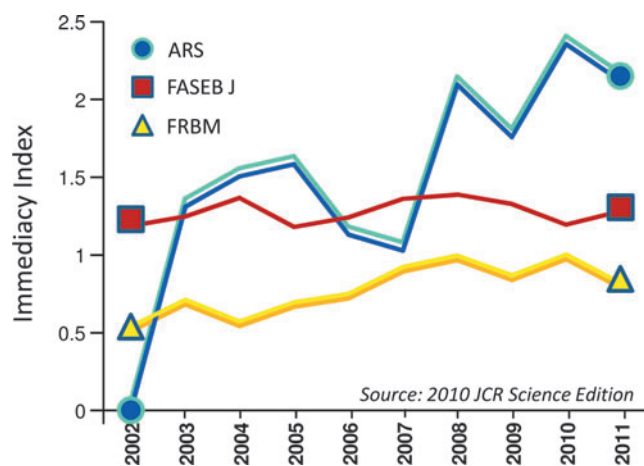


FIG. 2. Immediacy index over time of three reputed journals. FASEB J, FASEB Journal; FRBM, Free RadicBiol Med.

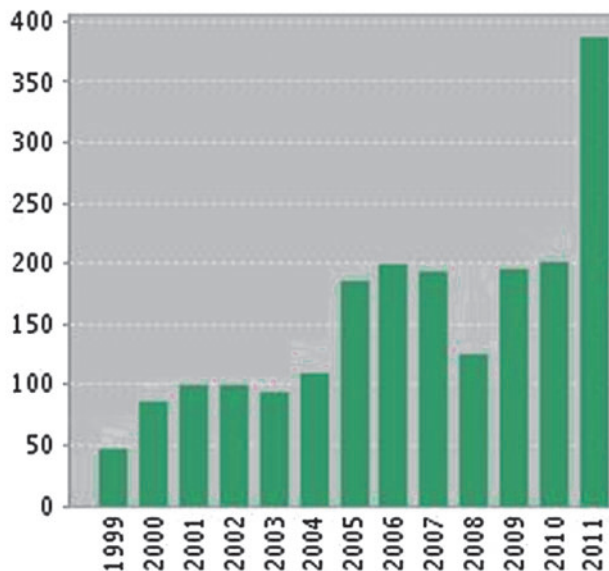
less than that predicted by simple arithmetic and will maintain its top position even after such aggressive volume expansion. In the interest of our redox community who now submit a substantially larger number of manuscripts to *ARS*, we have nearly doubled the annual publication volume from roughly 200 to 400 (Fig. 3). *ARS* is now the only journal in the field of redox biology, publishing 36 issues a year, bringing three issues to your desk every month. As you will find from *Instructions for Authors* posted in the journal website, *ARS* is now published as two series of one journal (with one impact factor): *ARS-Discoveries* and *ARS-Therapeutics*. *ARS-Discoveries* is published 24 times a year and *ARS-Therapeutics* is published now on a monthly basis that is, 12 times a year. Redox biology does have the potential of major health impact. *ARS-Therapeutics* is the first and only forum dedicated to prove that point to the broader biomedical community. Because of this decisive expansion plan, we anticipate a transient dip in the impact factor in 2013, but will still maintain our long-standing top position in the field of redox biology by a wide margin. In 2014, we will start bouncing back as the increased number of articles would have had time to be read and cited. In 2–3 years from now, *ARS* will emerge as a much stronger journal than what you see today.

Inherent strengths of *ARS* serve as capital to resource plans for growth. Our unusually stringent peer review system (see *Instruction for Authors*) is helping elevate the quality of submitted science (1). Thanks to our responsive authors who are willing to put up with the rigor of being reviewed by a community of 4–6 reviewers in most cases. Again, thank you for your co-operation in building the field through effective partnership between the wisdom of a community of reviewers that critique each submission and the authors. Extreme

TABLE 1. LISTING OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOR MANUSCRIPTS PUBLISHED IN ARS

Countries/Territories	Record Count	% of 2217	Bar Chart
USA	1186	53.496 %	████████████████████
JAPAN	245	11.051 %	████
GERMANY	159	7.172 %	████
ITALY	147	6.631 %	████
ENGLAND	111	5.007 %	████
FRANCE	88	3.969 %	███
PEOPLES R CHINA	69	3.112 %	███
AUSTRALIA	61	2.751 %	███
CANADA	59	2.661 %	███
SOUTH KOREA	59	2.661 %	███
SPAIN	57	2.571 %	███
SWEDEN	55	2.481 %	███
FINLAND	38	1.714 %	██
ISRAEL	33	1.488 %	██
NETHERLANDS	32	1.443 %	██
SWITZERLAND	29	1.308 %	██
SCOTLAND	27	1.218 %	██
HUNGARY	24	1.083 %	██
SINGAPORE	24	1.083 %	██
AUSTRIA	23	1.037 %	██
POLAND	23	1.037 %	██
INDIA	19	0.857 %	██
BRAZIL	17	0.767 %	██
DENMARK	17	0.767 %	██
ARGENTINA	15	0.677 %	██
CHILE	15	0.677 %	██
BELGIUM	14	0.631 %	██
NEW ZEALAND	12	0.541 %	██
PORTUGAL	12	0.541 %	██
RUSSIA	10	0.451 %	██
TURKEY	8	0.361 %	██
TAIWAN	7	0.316 %	██
MEXICO	6	0.271 %	██
IRELAND	5	0.226 %	██
NORWAY	5	0.226 %	██
GREECE	4	0.180 %	██
CZECH REPUBLIC	3	0.135 %	██
ESTONIA	3	0.135 %	██
SOUTH AFRICA	3	0.135 %	██
UKRAINE	3	0.135 %	██
URUGUAY	3	0.135 %	██
BYELARUS	2	0.090 %	██
ECUADOR	2	0.090 %	██
MALAYSIA	2	0.090 %	██
SLOVAKIA	2	0.090 %	██
THAILAND	2	0.090 %	██

Published Items in Each Year



Citations in Each Year

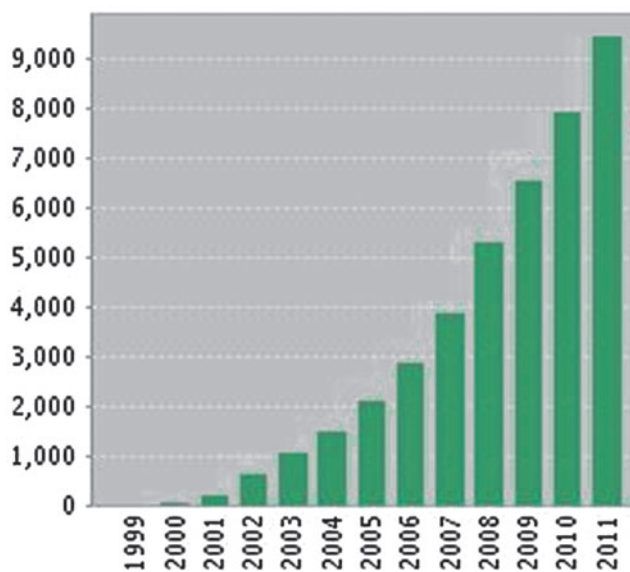


FIG. 3. Annual publication volume of ARS. Recent doubling to enhance footprint and widen impact.

bias of any single reviewer is effectively managed through our reviewer community approach protecting authors and their science. The *Rebound Peer Review* system (1), introduced by ARS, is aimed at safe-guarding author interests and protecting innovative science from the imperfections of the current peer-review system. The peer-review process at ARS is conducted in a timely manner with our current average time to first decision being well below three weeks. This is exemplary on the part of our distinguished reviewers.

Conducting the editorial charge under current dynamic conditions has been challenging, and I have personally enjoyed every bit of it. On behalf of the ARS family, I warmly welcome your continued engagement and feedback. Let us continue to partner to raise ARS and this fascinating field of redox research and healthcare.

Acknowledgment

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References

1. Sen CK. Rebound peer review: a viable recourse for aggrieved authors? *Antioxid Redox Signal* 16:293–296, 2012.

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