

Editorial

On October 7th, 2014, S. Karger Publishers, the publisher of *Acta Cytologica*, was informed by Thomson Reuters Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., USA, that *Acta Cytologica* is being 'deselected from the Web of Science effective with the last issue of 2013'. This means that the 2014 papers have been removed from the database and that the journal will not receive an impact factor next year. A reevaluation can be performed in 2017.

Multiple attempts to obtain an explanation for this unprecedented step, including personal visits by the Karger Chief Officers to the Thomson Reuters offices in Philadelphia, have failed to attain any additional information. Delistings of other journals in the field with a wide variety of impact factors and self-citation quotas are not known to us. We therefore consider this step completely unfounded and arbitrary. It appears to us that Thomson Reuters, as owners of the Web of Science and the Science Citation Index, is dominating the field to a degree that precludes the disclosure of explanatory information about the reasons and criteria that led to this delisting.

This most unusual decision comes at a time when Karger Publishers, together with the Editorial Board of *Acta Cytologica*, has succeeded in making major improvements in the quality, appearance, turn-around time and impact factor of the journal since taking over as the publisher in 2012.

Please note that the listing of the journal in PubMed/Medline, EMBASE, Scopus, Google Scholar etc. remains unaffected.

At this point, we consider it essential to inform all our subscribers, readers and authors of this decision. We will make every effort necessary to keep *Acta Cytologica* on its track as the long-standing international journal of cytopathology. We are definitely planning to apply for relisting in 2017.

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