

● LETTER FROM THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Dear Contributors and Readers,

As *Neural Regeneration Research (NRR)* enters its eleventh year of publication, an enormous amount of effort has been put into the development of this journal. We are happy to report that our journal is experiencing strong and healthy growth. We would like to present a brief overview of the growth of the journal over the past year, 2017.

Founded in April 2006, *NRR* is a peer-reviewed, open-access international journal published monthly, with its mission focused on reporting novel scientific discoveries in the field of neural regeneration.

NRR has been indexed by Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE; Impact Factor 1.769 in 2016), PubMed, SCOPUS, and other important international databases. We hope that, with your support, *NRR* will continue to grow and to contribute to the advancement of science.

We are very pleased to report that the impact factor (IF) of *NRR* has grown steadily (Figure 1). For example, the IF for 2016 was 1.769, which was an 83% increase from 2015 (IF = 0.968). According to JCR citation data, the 2017 IF is anticipated to be around 2.1–2.2. This is a significant advancement of the journal and we are inspired by the recognition by the scientists in this field.

Now, *NRR* has been widely accepted by scientists from all of the world. Table 1 summarizes the journal's website visits in 2017. Impressively, 143,251 visits were recorded

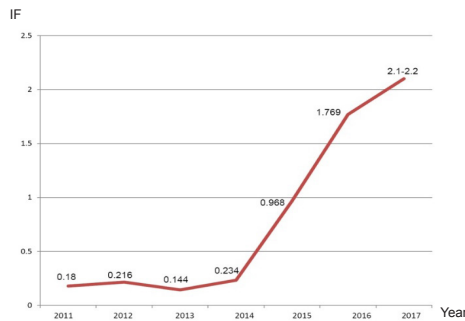


Figure 1 NRR's impact factor trend (Source: Journal Citation Report).

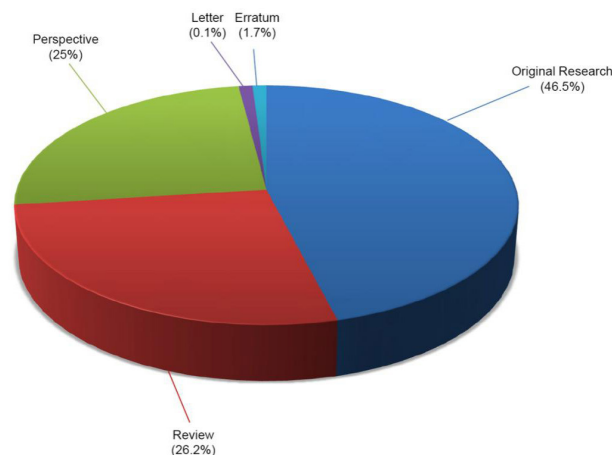


Figure 2 Types of NRR articles published in 2017.

and, among them, 72.4% were new to the journal's website. Among visitors from different countries, those from the United States ranked the first (24.60%), followed by China (12.30%), and India (4.69%). The downloads of articles published in *NRR* have been steadily increasing with > 310,000 full text downloads and > 110,000 PDF downloads in 2017 (Table 2).


Over the past year, we have continued to publish innovative and high quality articles in *NRR*, with a particular emphasis on invited reviews and perspective articles. Of the 340 publications published in 2017 (source: Web of Science, January 25, 2018), review and perspective type articles accounted for 51% (89 reviews and 85 perspective articles) (Figure 2).

Figure 3 summarizes the top 10 countries (out of 42 countries and regions) whose articles published in *NRR* in 2017. For review and perspective type articles, authors

Table 1 Rank of top 10 countries who visited the NRR's website in 2017

Country	Sessions	% New Sessions	New Users
	143,251 % of Total: 100.00% (143,251)	72.38% Avg for View: 72.29% (0.12%)	103,682 % of Total: 100.12% (103,554)
1. United States	35,239(24.60%)	74.61%	26,293(25.36%)
2. China	17,626(12.30%)	65.61%	11,564(11.15%)
3. India	6,721(4.69%)	75.11%	5,048(4.87%)
4. South Korea	6,504(4.54%)	68.91%	4,482(4.32%)
5. United Kingdom	6,485(4.53%)	74.85%	4,854(4.68%)
6. Japan	6,461(4.51%)	70.50%	4,555(4.39%)
7. Germany	4,223(2.95%)	74.47%	3,145(3.03%)
8. Canada	3,997(2.79%)	77.93%	3,115(3.00%)
9. Italy	3,984(2.78%)	70.31%	2,801(2.70%)
10. Brazil	3,581(2.50%)	77.88%	2,789(2.69%)

Table 2 Monthly summary of downloads of NRR articles using different media devices in 2017



Month	Full Text	PDF	Abstract	Mobile Fulltext	EPUB	SWORD file
Dec	31,064	11,920	3,496	207	769	503
Nov	28,410	8,330	4,195	12	825	459
Oct	25,874	8,338	1,441	37	956	624
Sep	29,104	7,992	1,693	117	1,171	365
Aug	27,846	7,597	1,682	78	1,124	458
July	32,510	7,015	2,330	36	2,177	530
June	24,608	7,722	2,595	11	1,064	456
May	31,483	8,899	3,051	30	1,197	510
April	30,535	9,490	3,000	22	769	397
Mar	29,166	14,048	1,618	117	1,110	1,054
Feb	22,402	7,179	1,313	56	974	906
Jan	23,308	7,918	2,070	16	1,199	1,287

from the United States contributed 89 documents and overseas authors together contributed 160 out of 174 WoS documents (92%).

Importantly, *NRR* is committed to helping increase the reach and impact of research published in the journal. Today, the accessibility of social networking provides greater opportunities to improve the visibility of the research work. We have provided excellent service to our authors and readers in 2017. We will continue to expand the social network accounts to promote *NRR* articles (Table 3). We invite you to visit these sites and to offer your valuable suggestions. In 2018, *NRR* will collaborate with TrendMD (www.trendmd.com) to offer a unique opportunity for those who wish to publish their work in the journal.

We would also like to share with you the top 10 most popular articles published in *NRR* in 2017 (Table 4).

Lastly, we will organize the 2018 International Neural Regeneration Symposium (INRS2018), to be held at Guangzhou, China between July 27 and 29, 2018. At this Joint Symposium, keynote speeches will be given by Dr. Thomas C. Südhof, the 2013 Nobel Prize winner in Physiology or Medicine, and Distinguished Professor V. Reggie Edgerton at University of California–Los Angeles, USA, a renowned expert in spinal cord research and regeneration. Furthermore, nearly 30 prominent scientists from all over the world will deliver their cutting-edge speeches on the

latest progress of neural regeneration. We sincerely hope that you will join us in making the Joint Symposium in 2018 a success. The meeting information can be found at http://www.inrs-nrr.org/CN/model/index_en.shtml.

Finally, we wish to encourage our readers, authors, and editors to contribute more high quality scientific papers to *NRR*. We hope that *NRR* will be an important forum for presenting your cutting edge research in neural regeneration, and by working together, we will make *NRR* one of the finest journals in the world. We also welcome comments and suggestions that could improve the quality of the journal.

We wish you a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous 2018!

Sincerely,
Editors-in-chief of *Neural Regeneration Research*

Kwok-fai So and Xiao-Ming Xu

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Table 4 Top 10 most downloaded articles from *NRR* in 2017

Authors	Title	Article type	PDF downloads
Mizui et al.	BDNF pro-peptide: a novel synaptic modulator generated as an N-terminal fragment from the BDNF precursor by proteolytic processing	Invited Review	847
Kim et al.	Immunohistochemical evidence of axonal regrowth across polyethylene glycol-fused cervical cords in mice	Original Research	791
Ordaz et al.	Optogenetics and its application in neural degeneration and regeneration	Invited Review	513
Kinghorn et al.	The emerging role of autophagolysosomal dysfunction in Gaucher disease and Parkinson's disease	Invited Review	466
Mathis et al.	Current view and perspectives in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	Invited Review	461
Xiong et al.	Emerging potential of exosomes for treatment of traumatic brain injury	Invited Review	445
Akram et al.	Effects of medicinal plants on Alzheimer's disease and memory deficits	Invited Review	443
Wurzelmann et al.	Therapeutic potential of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) and a small molecular mimics of BDNF for traumatic brain injury	Invited Review	376
Castelnovo et al.	Schwann cell development, maturation and regeneration: a focus on classic and emerging intracellular signaling pathways	Invited Review	364
Jaiswal	Therapeutic opportunities and challenges of induced pluripotent stem cells-derived motor neurons for treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and motor neuron disease	Invited Review	355

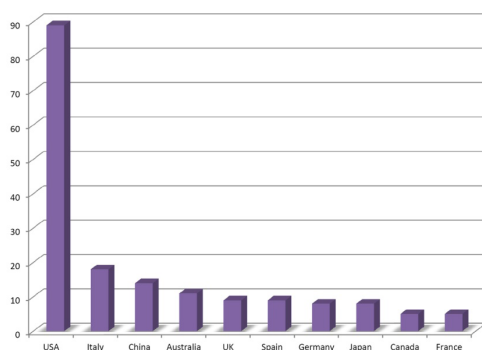


Figure 3 Top 10 countries that contributed review and perspective type of articles to *NRR* in 2017.

Table 3 *NRR*'s social networks

Platform	Website	Account Name
Mendeley	https://www.mendeley.com/	Neural Regeneration Research
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/	Liu NRR
Twitter	https://twitter.com/	NRR Neural
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/	NRR Liu