

## Opinion Paper

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# More discussion on journal impact factor

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In 2009, *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine* published two 'opinion' papers, one by myself [1] and another one by Favaloro [2], debating the usefulness and longevity of the journal impact factor. At that time, I predicted that journal impact factor will fade away soon, while Dr. Favaloro expressed a different, opposing opinion.

Recently, during the 2012 American Society for Cell Biology meeting, the usefulness of the journal impact factor has been debated [3]. These deliberations led to the preparation of a document known as The San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA), which has been sponsored/signed by more than 150 leading scientists and 75 scientific organizations. DORA stipulates that the journal impact factor must not be used as a surrogate

measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or used in hiring, promotion and funding decisions. The declaration further recommends alternative metrics for evaluating researchers, including citation counts of individual articles. Essentially, these recommendations endorse the central message of my previous editorial [1], which states that the impact of an individual paper is not necessarily related to the impact factor of the journal that published it.

I believe that the readers of *Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine* who have read the previous commentaries on journal impact factor [1, 2], should be interested to look at these latest recommendations ([www.ascb.org/SFdeclaration.html](http://www.ascb.org/SFdeclaration.html)).

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