

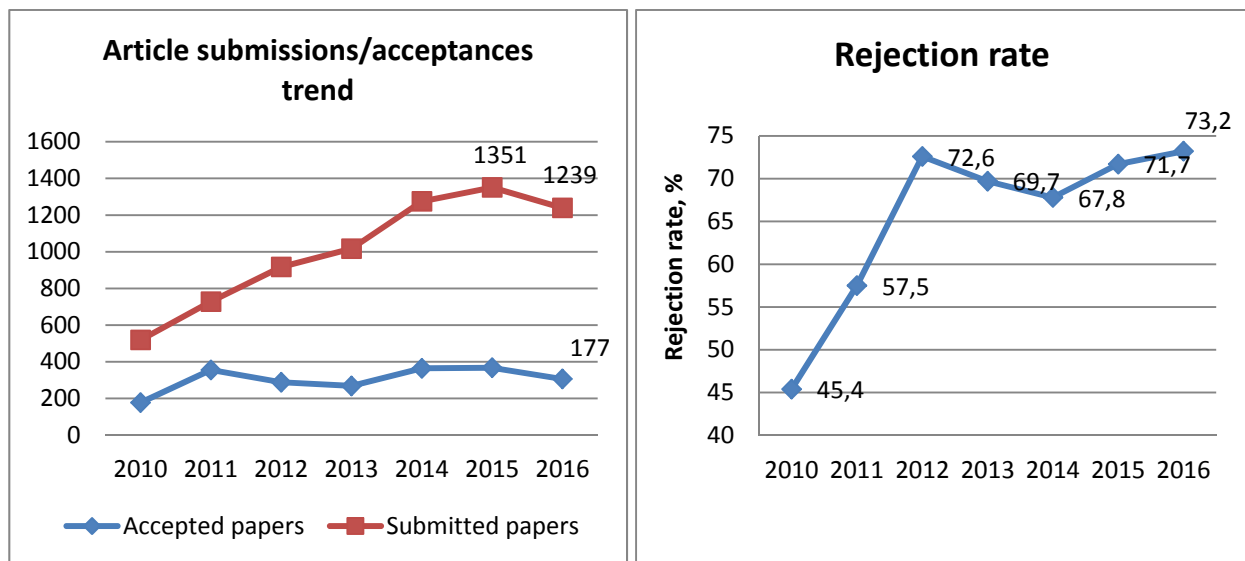
Neurological Sciences

Publisher report 2016

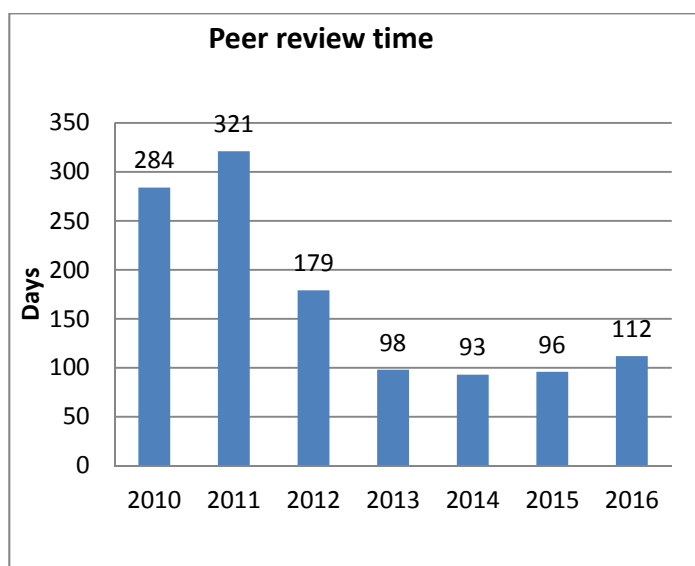
Editorial office activity

Although we are still receiving a huge amount of submissions, the increasing trend over the years seems to have reached a peak in 2015 to slightly decrease in 2016 (1239 submissions in 2016 vs 1531 in 2015).

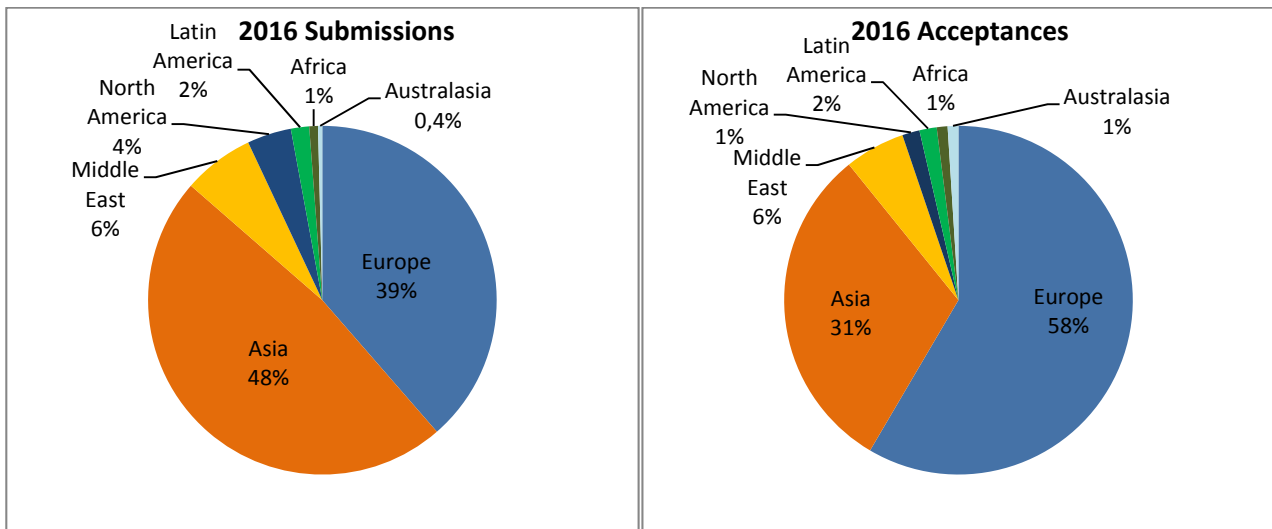
Last year, in consideration of the high number of submissions, a moderate increase of the rejection rate was advised, since a stricter article selection could have positively affect article quality, and consequently rise article downloads and citations eventually. In 2016 the rejection rate reached 73.2%.



Despite the great amount of article submissions, the peer review process is quite efficiently managed. The whole process was completed in 112 days on average in 2016 while 39 days is the average time span between submission and first decision.



As far as the geographical breakdown of submissions is concerned, Asia Pacific and Middle East (54%) and European countries (39%) were the mainly represented areas, although considerably higher rejection rates for Asiatic countries caused a reversed pattern of acceptance rates (Europe 58%, Asia-Middle East 37%). Other regions showed considerably lower submissions rates. Among these it is noteworthy the modest contribution of US authors (2.5% of whole submitted papers) for which we also recorded an unexpected considerably high rejection rate (75%). Italian contributions accounted for the 18.8% of whole submitted papers, while noteworthy is the significant contribution rates from emerging countries such as China (35% of whole submitted papers), Turkey (9.8%), Iran (6%), Korea (5%), India (2.3%).

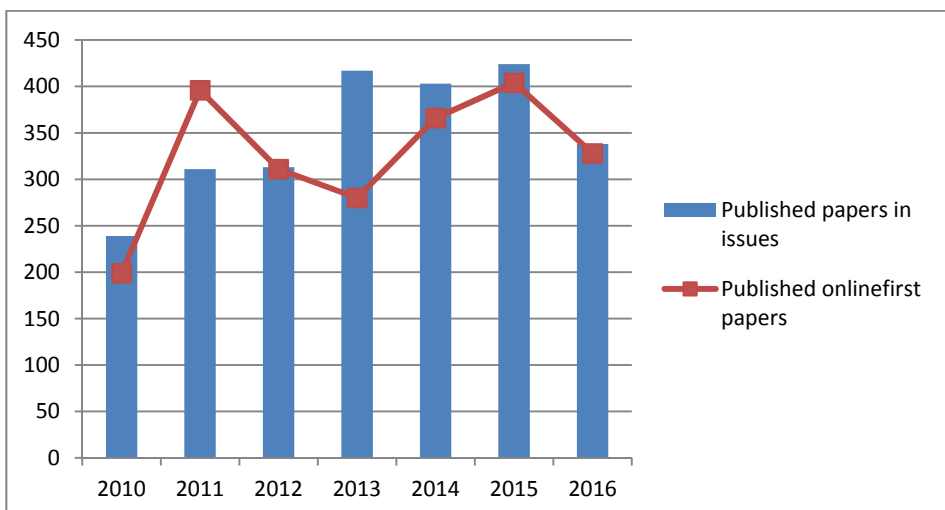


The pies describe the geographical distribution of article submissions (left) and acceptances (right) in 2016.

Production flow

Accepted articles are published onlinefirst before inclusion into a regular issue. Onlinefirst articles are in citable form since articles metadata are sent to all relevant Abstracting & Indexing services immediately after online publication.

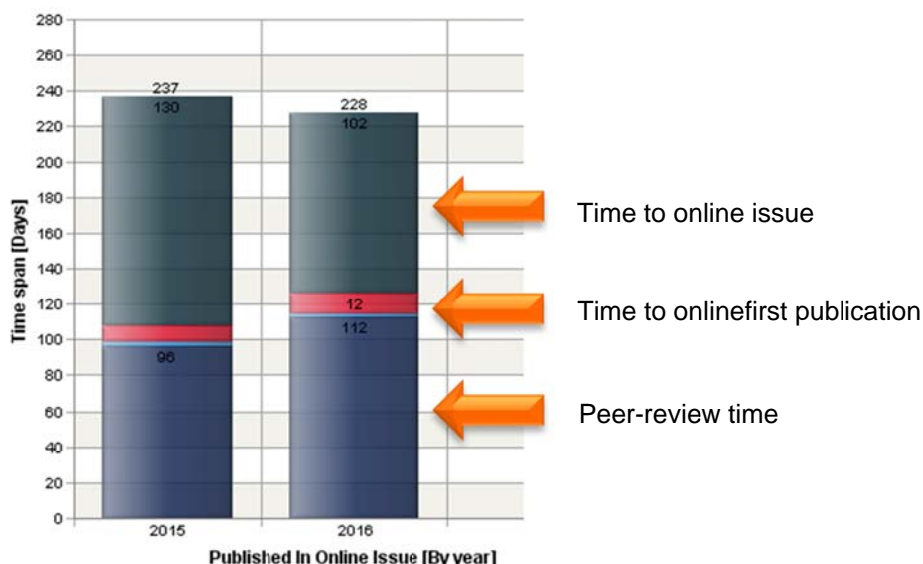
In the recent years, the number of onlinefirst articles published In Neurological Sciences is in line with the number of published articles in issues, this prevented articles staying long times in the onlinefirst status and large onlinefirst article backlogs. To date 73 onlinefirst articles are waiting to be included in regular issues, these may cover about 3 forthcoming issues. Regular issues are timely published, to date the line-up of the March issue has been set up.



Original and Letters to Editors articles types were included at the highest rates in 2015 and 2016 regular issues (51% and 21.6% respectively in 2016). In 2015 we suggested to reduce the number of Letters and increase the number of Reviews and Brief Communications because of the respective contributions to journal citation rate. In 2016 the number of published letters to the Editors was reduced by 63.5%, while the number of Brief Communications and Reviews was increased by 130% and 45% respectively.

Articles types included in regular issues	Publication year	
	2015	2016
Editorial		1
Highlights	12	12
Review articles	25	29
Original Paper	210	173
Brief Communications	18	33
Letters to the Editor	142	73
Quiz Cases	2	3
Healthcare organization		1
History of Neurology	1	2
Neurological digression		1
News & Views	1	0
Obituary		1
Simulation in Neurology	1	0
Updates in Clinical Neurogenetics	1	1
Errata	7	7
Retraction Notes	3	0
Acknowledgements to reviewers	1	1
Total contributions	424	338

On average 12 days are required from acceptance to onlinefirst publication, 102 days are required for the inclusion of a published article into a regular issue (130 days in 2015).



Average times between submission of a manuscript and publication into a regular issue.

Subscriptions

Neurological Sciences is published e-only while Society members' access to contents is granted via an http referrer from the Society website to the journal homepage in SpringerLink. In addition, Society members are entitled to purchase a journal print subscription at a discounted rate of 80 euro.

The journal international exposure is mainly granted via librarian, Institutional and Academic consortia deals. As shown in the Table below, in 2015 the journal *Neurological Sciences* was included into 549 consortia online deals (+3.2% vs. 2014) which gave access to journal contents to 10,267 Institutions all over the world (+7,2% vs. 2014).

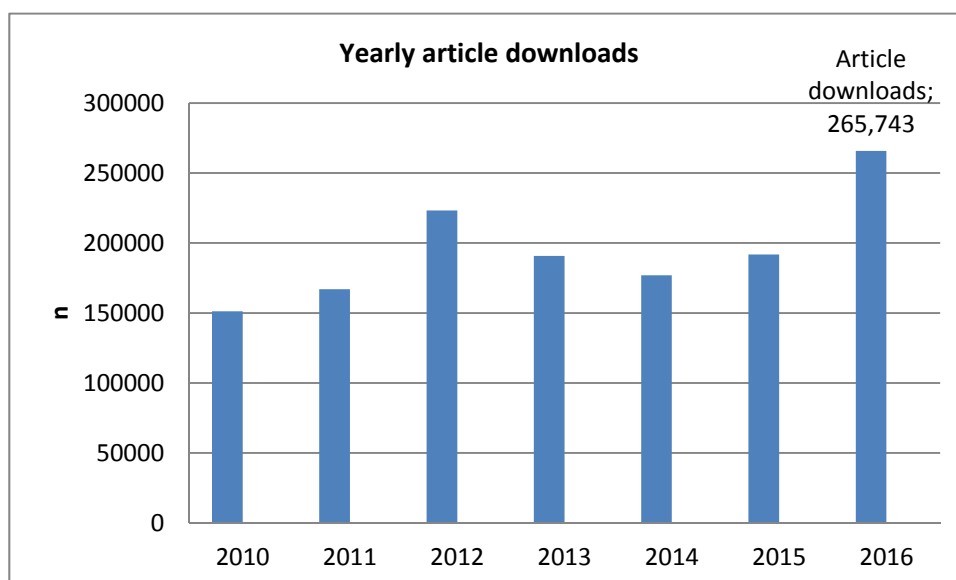
	2014		2015	
Region	Number of Deals	Institutions with exposure via online deals	Number of Deals	Institutions with exposure via online deals
Americas	131	2,366	139	2,058
Asia Pacific	158	2,236	153	2,267
EMEA*	243	4,977	257	5,942
Grand Total **	532	9,579	549	10,267

In addition, Springer recognizes the need to invest in education and scientific research in places where they are needed, although people may not be able to afford to pay for them.

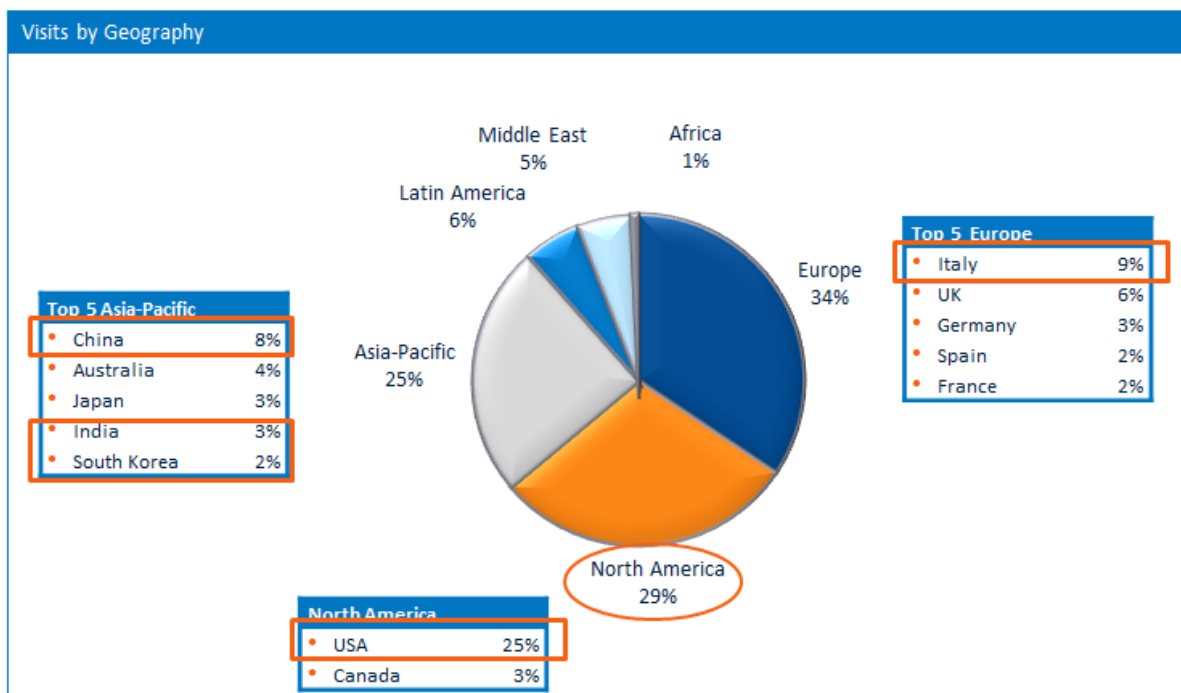
For the above reason more than 160 publishers, including Springer, three UN organizations, and two major US universities in 2002 launched the **Hinari** program which provides free (or discounted) research access to 11,400 peer-reviewed journals in Medicine and related Health Sciences (among which 580 Springer journals) to more than 5300 Institutions in 100 of the world's poorest countries. *Acta Neurologica Belgica* is included in such a project.

Usage

We recorded a steady increase of article downloads over the most recent years. In 2016 we had a 38.6% increase of article downloads versus the previous year. To promote article visibility, a 2-month free trial access (FTA) campaign to 2015-2016 most read articles in *Geriatrics* was launched in October 2016, while promotional mailings and social media campaigns were launched on the occasion of the *European Union Geriatric Medicine Society* Congress and throughout the year.



Surprisingly, the largest percentage of users are coming from US (25%) despite their contribution in terms of article submissions and publications is very limited (2.5% of whole 2016 submissions)



Below we report the contribution of each article type to article downloads in 2015. The advice is to privilege the publication of most downloaded article types.

Proceedings (Stresa Headache Seminar), Reviews, and Original articles are contributing mostly to total downloads. Despite the total number of Letters' downloads is significant, number of downloads/Letter is modest.

ARTICLE CATEGORY	TOTAL # OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED (in 2013 & 2014)	TOTAL # OF DOWNLOADS IN 2015 (for articles published in 2013 & 2014)	AVG DOWNLOADS/ARTICLE IN 2015
Review article	50	5.393	107,86
Healthcare Organization	2	183	91,50
Original article	387	23.140	59,79
Neurological Digression	2	149	74,50
Proceedings	87	11.925	137,07
Brief communication	47	2.276	48,43
News and Views	3	96	32,00
Quiz cases	3	113	37,67
Letter to the Editor	230	7.972	34,66
Editorial	1	65	65,00
Highlights	16	129	8,06
History of Neurology	6	345	57,50
Short communication	1	53	53,00
TOTAL	836	51.862	62,04

Social Impact

The daily work of scholars is moving online, especially among young researchers. While scholarly citations take many years to accrue, tweets, Facebook shares, blog posts tend to occur much more quickly as well as article downloads, thus Information from social media use could be employed side-by-side with scholarly citations.

Below are the numbers of article mentions in the social web in the years 2013-2015, provided by Altmetric. Articles can only be counted if the DOI is included in the social citation. In 2014 and 2015 we recorded a + 83.8% and +111% article shares respectively. Twitter is the most used social channel (data for 2016 are not available yet).

	2013	2014	2015
Articles Mentioned	185	340	718
News		1	37
Tweets	132	213	562
Facebook Pages	33	120	60
Blog Posts	14	4	15
G+ posts	3	2	44
F1000 reviews	3		

Citations

Neurological Sciences is included in the following Abstracting & Indexing Services: *Science Citation Index*, *Science Citation Index Expanded (SciSearch)*, *Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition*, *PubMed/Medline*, *SCOPUS*, *PsycINFO*, *EMBASE*, *Google Scholar*, *EBSCO*, *CSA*, *Academic OneFile*, *Academic Search*, *Biological Abstracts*, *BIOSIS*, *CSA Environmental Sciences*, *Current Contents/Clinical Medicine*, *Gale*, *Health Reference Center Academic*, *OCLC*, *ReadCube*, *SCImago*, *Summon by ProQuest*

Only Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science provide journal evaluation metrics. In all these A&I Services, Citation indexes of *Neurological Sciences* showed an increasing trend over the years. Details for 2015 are reported below (data for 2016 will be available in mid year).

Google Scholar

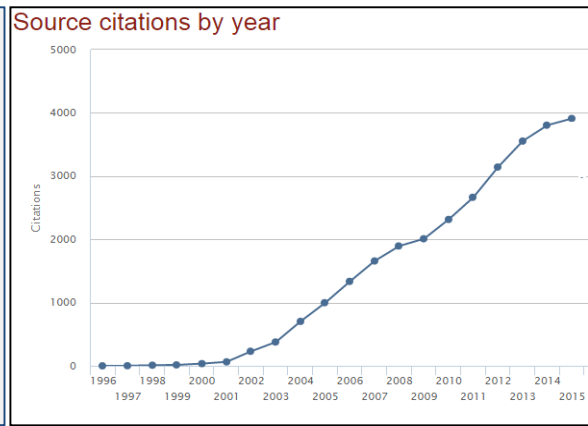
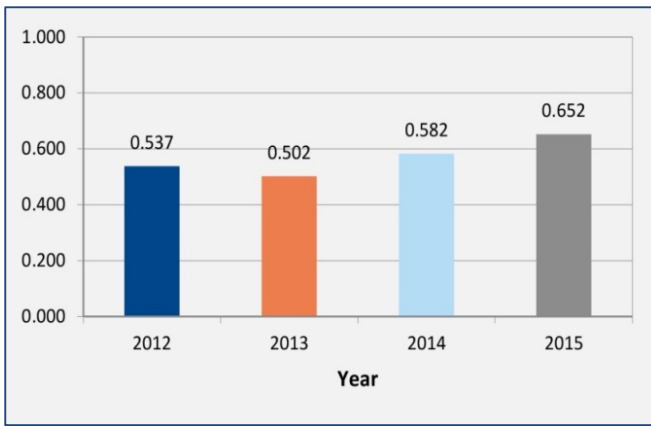
Google Scholar metric is based on the articles published by a journal over the previous 5 calendar years where h is the largest number of articles that have each been cited h times. *Neurological Sciences* recorded an h5-index of 28 in 2015, increasing over the years.

	2013	2014	2015
h5-index	24	26	28

Scopus

Scopus metric is based on the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR). SJR is calculated through a mathematical algorithm in which citations value is corrected by the prestige of citing journals

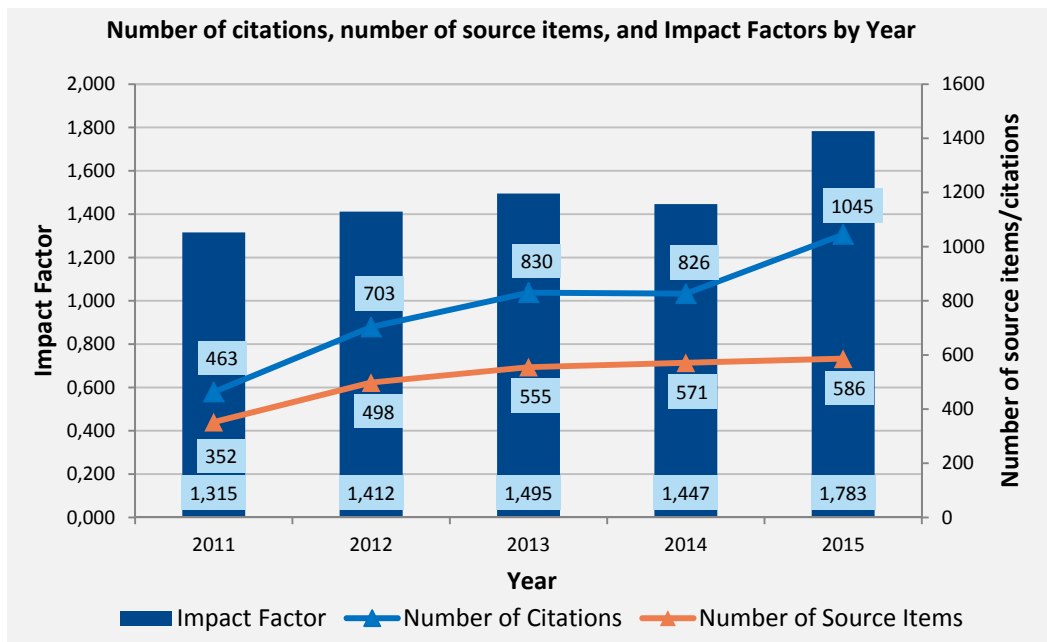
Neurological Sciences is included in *Neurology (clinical)* and *Psychiatry and mental health* subject categories. In both category the journal ranks Q2 with a SCImago journal rank (2015) of 0.652 increasing over the years (left graph below). Similarly, citations have shown a steady increasing trend (right graph below).



Thomson Reuters ISI

Neurological Sciences is included in two subject categories: *Clinical Neurology* and *Neurosciences*
 IF (2015) 1.783 - Number of Cites: 1045 - Journal Self Cites: 68 (6.5% of 1045)

ISI Subject category	Rank	Q
Clinical Neurology	126/192	Q3
Neurosciences	189/256	Q3



The overall rate of cited articles is 68%.

Among articles considered for IF (2015) calculation, the number of citations per article mainly ranges in between 1 and 3 (left Table below). Review, Healthcare Organization and Originals are the most cited article categories (2.24, 2 and 1.26 cites per article respectively) while Letters to the Editor give a very low contribution in terms of average citations (right Table below).

Cites	Number of articles	% of articles
0	189	32.25%
1	159	27.13%
2	103	17.58%
3	65	11.09%
4	37	6.31%
5	10	1.71%
6	11	1.88%
7	3	0.51%
8	5	0.85%
9	2	0.34%
13	1	0.17%
16	1	0.17%

ARTICLE CATEGORY	TOTAL # OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED (in 2013 & 2014)	TOTAL # OF CITATIONS IN 2015 (for articles published in 2013 & 2014)	AVG CITATIONS/ARTICLE
Review article	50	112	2,24
Healthcare Organization	2	4	2,00
Original article	387	652	1,68
Neurological Digression	2	3	1,50
Proceedings	87	105	1,21
Brief communication	47	52	1,11
News and Views	3	1	0,33
Quiz cases	3	1	0,33
Letter to the Editor	230	69	0,30
Editorial	1	0	0,00
Highlights	16	n/a - not indexed	n/a
History of Neurology	6	0	0,00
Short communication	1	0	0,00
TOTAL	836	999	1,19

The largest percentage of citing papers come from Chinese authorship (24%), surprisingly followed by US authors (23%), and Italian authors (19%). The top-20 citing countries are displayed in the table below.

Field: Countries/Territories	Record Count	% of 843
PEOPLES R CHINA	205	24.318 %
USA	195	23.132 %
ITALY	160	18.980 %
ENGLAND	50	5.931 %
GERMANY	49	5.813 %
SPAIN	37	4.389 %
CANADA	32	3.796 %
FRANCE	30	3.559 %
BRAZIL	28	3.321 %
SOUTH KOREA	27	3.203 %
AUSTRALIA	25	2.966 %
INDIA	23	2.728 %
JAPAN	21	2.491 %
TURKEY	21	2.491 %
NETHERLANDS	19	2.254 %
SWITZERLAND	19	2.254 %
SWEDEN	16	1.898 %
IRAN	14	1.661 %
POLAND	12	1.423 %
PORTUGAL	11	1.305 %
TAIWAN	11	1.305 %
DENMARK	10	1.186 %
GREECE	10	1.186 %
EGYPT	8	0.949 %
ISRAEL	8	0.949 %

Dedicated marketing activities

A few marketing activities were featured in 2016 in order to improve journal contents visibility and rise article usage and citations.

- Newsletters addressed to Springer Alert subscribers promoted the release of journal IF (2015) in June 2016 and the most influential contents published in the journal throughout the year.
- The journal was included in dedicated and more general promotional campaigns aiming at promoting latest news and contents in neurology
- Social Media channels are an effective way of communicating. Information regarding *Neurological Sciences* latest developments and content publications are regularly posted in Twitter on the @ClinicalMedJournals account.
- One month free trial access to selected 2015-2016 articles in *Geriatrics* was launched on October 2016: the free access contents were promoted through promotional mailings and social media campaigns launched on the occasion of the *European Union Geriatric Medicine Society Congress*.
- Selected highly downloaded articles were temporary opened throughout the year and promoted through social media campaigns.
- The Society initiatives during the Brain week and the annual Society Congress were promoted through social media and dedicated news were included in the monthly Table of Contents Alerts.
- A banner displaying the journal cover with a direct link to journal info was placed on the journal homepage of several Springer journals in Neurology

New featured services

1. In 2016 we introduced in Editorial Manager the **Transfer Desk service**. By choosing “Decline and transfer to Transfer Desk” in Editorial Manager, authors of rejected manuscript can be offered the option of transferring their manuscript to another journal among 2500+ Springer Nature journals. The Transfer Desk team will help the author find a more suitable journal and to streamline resubmission.

2. Ethical statements (Conflict of interest, Ethical approval, Funding, Informed consent) have been set as mandatory in published papers and new submissions are currently automatically checked in Editorial Manager. Submitted manuscripts not complying with journal ethical guidelines are returned to authors for revision before being assigned to the Editor-in-Chief.

3. A new policy on **Research Data Sharing** has been introduced for the journal. Such a policy encourages authors, where possible and applicable, to deposit raw data that support the findings of their research in a public repository, or in additional manuscript supporting files, whilst not making it mandatory. Proper instructions along with the list of publicly available repositories have been included in the journal Instructions to Authors. Research data policy initiative is intended to be the answer to an existing general concern upon research data reproducibility and we hope our readers and authors will welcome the transparency process initiated by our journal.

4. In fall 2016 the **SharedIt** service was introduced to further improve contents diffusion and visibility. Authors of published papers and Readers accessing full text contents are offered an immediate shareable link to access a dynamic and interactive version of their full text article. Shareable links can be created in SpringerLink on each article homepage and be shared with anyone, including via social channels, institutional repositories and authors’ own websites as well as scholarly collaborative networks.

5. To further enhance contents exposure, starting from January 2017, 1-month temporary free access has been set for the 2-3 most influential articles in each published issue. Selection will be performed in agreement with the Editor-in-Chief and contents opening will be immediately announced through social media.

Suggestions to improve journal quality and rise article downloads and citations

1. **Provide Society members with the ToC Alert service.** The monthly Table of Contents (ToC) Alert is a mailing service which inform readers when a new issue is available online with direct links to published articles. In consideration that *Neurological Sciences* is now published online-only, such a service may be introduced for Society members to (1) allow members a regular and timely update on Society journal publications and (2) guarantee contents diffusion among Society members; to this aim Springer needs to receive Society members mailing list. Springer will grant that the Society mailing list will be used to the unique purpose of distributing ToC Alerts.
2. **Revise the Editorial Board panel and introduce geographical diversity** (especially US members) to attract foreign authors and increase geographical representation of authorship
3. **Solicit articles from Board members;** Board members should be invited to provide or solicit from their collaborators at least one paper/year
4. **Invite highly cited authors to write Editorials, Commentaries or original publications** that may convey citations to the journal
5. **Determine which topics in the journal are currently well read and well cited and attract articles on these topics** (Springer already provided data concerning most downloaded and cited articles, although regular updates may be requested)
6. **Determine which articles are not cited and discourage articles on such topics**
7. **Keep sufficiently low the number of Letters to the Editor,** since they have a low contribution to overall article downloads and citations
8. **Privilege the publication of Society guidelines/recommendations and consensus papers** that usually convey a good deal of citations
9. **Create Topical collections on hot topics** thus attracting high quality papers on hot topics and potentially drawing citations.

What's a topical collection (TC)?

- TC is not a Special Issue/Supplement, but a transversal online collection of articles dealing with a selected topic
- Each TC is managed by one or more Guest Editors, experts in the field, who may invite contributions to the topics or being involved in the peer-review process of manuscripts submitted to the Collection
- Manuscripts are not submitted at the same time and do not appear all in a single issue, but can be published over an extended period of time
- TCs function as a call for papers on a specific topic, and may draw readers' interest if the topic is actual and original
- For more info, see also:
<http://link.springer.com/journal/volumesAndIssues/11940?tabName=topicalCollections>