Dear Colleagues:

As in the past, I am pleased to report that *Journal of Neurotrauma* continues its remarkable growth and recognition, remaining the preeminent vehicle for the dissemination of basic science and clinical discovery in the field of brain and spinal cord injury and repair. Despite a significant expansion in the number of manuscripts published by the Journal last year, the impact factor remains strong, exceeding 5.0, which confirms the fact that the Journal’s published works are being widely read and cited. Further confirmation of the Journal’s success is also reflected in the fact that Journal articles published in calendar year 2018 will amass more than 260,000 full-text downloads. As in the past, the *Journal of Neurotrauma* remains the #1 vehicle for disseminating work focused on traumatic brain injury, achieving the #2 position in terms of manuscripts dealing with traumatic spinal cord injury.

Much of the Journal’s success can be linked to its distinguished editorial board who bring considerable expertise in virtually all aspects of traumatic brain and spinal cord injury. Of course, the efforts of this excellent board would have little impact without the guidance provided by our senior and associate editors, including Drs. Dalton Dietrich, Alex Valadka, Lars Hillered, and Yoichi Katayama. As is well appreciated by our readership, the Journal covers a wide array of topics focusing on traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, from its most acute phase responses to its chronic sequelae and restorative phases. While it is impossible in the context of one letter to cover all the topics published in the Journal, I would note that the Journal routinely publishes high-quality work on human imaging, biomarker discovery, advanced electrophysiology, metabolic studies, and therapeutic interventions performed in humans. These reports are nicely interfaced with animal studies including advanced cellular and molecular biology accompanied by rigorous behavioral and functional assessments. For the clinical scientist, the Journal provides a unique forum in which to present his/her work to clinical colleagues while also influencing the basic science discoveries routine in a journal. For the basic scientist, it provides a unique platform to present their cutting-edge work to not only their basic science colleagues but also, to the clinical community who will, in turn, inform the care and management of those who have sustained brain or spinal cord injuries. This coupling is rather unique and is frequently cited by the Journal’s authorship as one of the reasons they choose to publish their work in the Journal.

As Editor-in-Chief, I pledge to continue to improve the Journal and make certain that it retains its status as the preeminent vehicle to disseminate work on traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, while serving the needs of both its readership and the neurotrauma community at large. As promised, the Journal continues to expand and rotate its editorial board membership, while also taking new directions in terms of review articles, editorials, and high impact commentaries. As I have noted in the past, the Journal is always open to the comments of its readership. Whenever possible, the Journal will respond to criticism and, as always, it is willing to launch new ideas and directions, whether they relate to the generation of special issues or alternatively, the reporting of new thoughts or commentaries.

I thank all who continue to contribute to the Journal via the submission of manuscripts and participation in peer review. You have been the catalyst for the Journal’s success and I look forward to your continued contributions. For those of you who are new to the field, I ask that you consider the *Journal of Neurotrauma* as the primary vehicle for reporting your research. For the Journal’s senior contributors, I encourage you to continue your submission of high-quality manuscripts, recognizing that the Journal is being widely read and cited.

As Editor-in-Chief, I appreciate that *Journal of Neurotrauma* and the quality of the work therein have given credibility to the field of neurotrauma research. The Journal has helped alert both the scientific and lay communities regarding numerous issues of immediate societal interest and import. I look forward to your continued support and we welcome your manuscript for rapid and transparent peer review. Lastly, in light of the Journal’s continued visibility and importance for the field, I encourage you to recommend the Journal to your library if it is not already in their collection.

I thank you for your support and continued consideration of the Journal.

Regards,
John T. Povlishock
Editor-in-Chief