



Editorial Chief editor's 2017 annual report



2017 was an exciting and rewarding year for *RBM Online*, as it continued to provide cutting-edge information regarding basic, translational and clinical aspects of infertility and related areas of reproductive health. Among the successes, most notably the impact factor reached a value well above 3 for the first time in the journal's history (**Figure 1**), placing it in the first quartile of all journals published in the categories 'Obstetrics and Gynecology' and 'Reproductive Biology'.

In addition, we have made great efforts to strengthen ties with our existing affiliated societies and to reach out to successful new organizations. We have also improved our outreach to individuals, growing our presence and engagement on social media. Furthermore, within our own editorial family, we were happy to welcome Professor Richard Anderson from the University of Edinburgh to stengthen our team of editors (Anderson, 2017).

Moreover, this past year we have not shied away from publishing two potentially important but controversial papers, one regarding the first live birth following 'oocyte spindle transfer' (Zhang et al., 2017), another concerning women diagnosed with breast cancer following ovarian stimulation for oocyte donation (Schneider et al., 2017). Both papers were accompanied by comprehensive editorials (Alikani et al., 2017; Fauser and Garcia-Velasco, 2017, respectively) aiming to put these controversial findings in perspective. Seeing these efforts interact with and direct the subsequent dialogue on news and social media platforms has been very rewarding.

Increasing impact factor

The impact factor of a scientific journal is an important measure of quality and authority in its field. It represents the number of times all papers published in a given journal in two consecutive years are cited on average in the subsequent year. Although this system is increasingly criticized, as yet no better system is on the horizon. A journal's impact factor is an important determinant for our readers in deciding where to submit manuscripts. As such, *RBM Online's* increasing impact factor is vital in helping secure the continued submission of high-quality papers from successful individuals and research groups.

Generally, the impact factor of any given journal is predominantly determined by a small proportion of highly cited publications. An assessment of *RBM Online's* most cited papers of recent years (**Table 1**) indicates the predominance of translational research covering topics such as embryo aneuploidy, sperm DNA, implantation, and oocyte and ovarian function.

Making and strengthening ties with affiliated societies

Our two major competing journals (Human Reproduction and Fertility and Sterility) are each linked to only one large society in the field. In contrast, RBM Online has developed affiliations with a range of organizations over the years, and currently enjoys fruitful links with eight well-established societies. Moreover, in 2017 we established a relationship with another very successful organization, Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Infertility (COGI). Their annual highquality meeting covers progress and controversy in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, and is very well attended. This meeting clearly meets a need for continued education and the critical evaluation of recent developments in the field. Our new relationship provides the opportunity to showcase the best recent papers published in RBM Online at a special session during COGI's annual meeting. At the November 2017 meeting in Vienna, we chose three papers (in this case the winner and runners-up of the most recent Robert G. Edwards Prize Paper Award) which were presented by their respective authors in a very well-attended session. In addition, authors of the best papers presented at COGI are being invited to submit a related review for publication in RBM Online.

In a similar vein, we also successfully partnered with Alpha Scientists in Reproductive Medicine to arrange for the best embryology or andrology paper published in *RBM Online* to be presented at the forthcoming Alpha meeting in Reykjavic in April 2018.

Growing social media presence

Since early 2017, we have worked to improve RBM Online's connectivity and engagement with individuals via social media, especially through Twitter (please follow @RBMOnline). Papers of broad

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Table 1 – RBM Online papers most cited in 2015, 2016 and 2017 that were published in the preceding 2 years.

Most cited articles in 2016, published in IF window 2014-2015

Citations	Citations (lifetime)	Article Title	Author(s)		ublication ear	Vol/Iss	Documen Type
29	102	Modelling a risk classification of aneuploidy in human embryos using non-invasive morphokinetics	Bowman N., Sedler M., Fishel S., E Campbell A., Hickman C.	Ouffy S., 20	113	26/5	Article
20	75	Retrospective analysis of outcomes after IVF using an aneuploidy risk model derived from time-lapse imaging without PGS	Thornton S., Bowman N., Sedler M S., Duffy S., Campbell A.	., Fishel 20	13	27/2	Article
19	42	The impact of sperm DNA damage in assisted conception and beyond: Recent advances in diagnosis and treatment	De Iuliis G., Lewis S., Henkel R., Co S., Gharagozloo P., Evenson D., Ait Giwercman G A.		13	27/4	Review
18	42	Implantation in assisted reproduction: A look at endometrial receptivity	Fatemi H., PopoviÄ-TodoroviÄ B.	20	13	27/5	Review
16	48	Recurrent implantation failure: Definition and management	Ledger W., Li T., Cutting R., Liu F., Coughlan C., Sallam H., Gurgan T. Q., Ong K., Demirol A.		14	28/1	Review
14	23	Limitations of a time-lapse blastocyst prediction model: A large multicentre outcome analysis	Kirkegaard K., Kirk J., Agerholm I. Ingerslev H., Gabrielsen A., Campl Sayed S., Bentin-Ley U.		114	29/2	Review
14	26	Live birth rates in Bologna poor responders treated with ovarian stimulation for IVF/ICS	Blockeel C., Polyzos N., Haentjens		114	28/4	Article
14	47	Sperm DNA damage caused by oxidative stress: Modifiable clinical, lifestyle and nutritional factors in male infertility	Leeson H., Milne S., Wright C.	20	114	28/6	Review
13	44	Time-lapse microscopy and image analysis in basic and clinical embryo development research	Chen A., Shen S., Wong C., Behr B	. 20	13	26/2	Review
12	30	Assisted oocyte activation following ICSI fertilization failure	De Sutter P., Vanden Meerschaut I Heindryckx B., Nikiforaki D.	=., 20	14	28/5	Review
Most cited	l articles in	2016, published in IF window 2014-2015					
Citations	Citations (lifetime)	Article Title	Authors	Publication Year	n Vol/Iss	Documer Type	nt Open Acces (Y/N)
30	70	Sperm DNA damage caused by oxidative stress: Modifiable clinical, lifestyle and nutritional factors in male infertility	Wright C.,Milne S.,Leeson H.	2014	28/6	Review	Ν
24	68	Recurrent implantation failure: Definition and management	Coughlan C.,Ledger W.,Wang Q.,Liu F.,Demirol A.,Gurgan T.,Cutting R.,Ong K.,Sallam H.,Li T.C.	2014	28/1	Review	Ν
16	33	Oocyte vitrification in the 21st century and post-warming fertility outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Potdar N.,Gelbaya T.A.,Nardo L.G.	2014	29/2	Review	Ν
15	34	Environmental pollutants and lifestyle factors induce oxidative stress and poor	Al-Gubory K.H.	2014	29/1	Review	Ν
		prenatal development					Ν
5	27	prenatal development Clinical implications of congenital uterine anomalies: A meta-analysis of comparative studies	Venetis C.A.,Papadopoulos S.P.,Campo R.,Gordts S.,Tarlatzis B.CGrimbizis G.F.	2014	29/6	Review	
	27 29	Clinical implications of congenital uterine	S.P.,Campo R.,Gordts S.,Tarlatzis B.C.,Grimbizis G.F. Polanski L.T.,Baumgarten M.N.,Quenby S.,Brosens J.,Campbell B.K.,Raine-Fenning	2014 2014	29/6 28/4	Review Review	Ν
4		Clinical implications of congenital uterine anomalies: A meta-analysis of comparative studies What exactly do we mean by 'recurrent implantation failure'? A systematic review	S.P.,Campo R.,Gordts S.,Tarlatzis B.C.,Grimbizis G.F. Polanski L.T.,Baumgarten M.N.,Quenby S.,Brosens				N
4	29	Clinical implications of congenital uterine anomalies: A meta-analysis of comparative studies What exactly do we mean by 'recurrent implantation failure'? A systematic review and opinion Assisted oocyte activation following ICSI	S.P.,Campo R.,Gordts S.,Tarlatzis B.C.,Grimbizis G.F. Polanski L.T.,Baumgarten M.N.,Quenby S.,Brosens J.,Campbell B.K.,Raine-Fenning N.J. Vanden Meerschaut F.,Nikiforaki	2014	28/4	Review	
15 14 14 14	29 31	Clinical implications of congenital uterine anomalies: A meta-analysis of comparative studies What exactly do we mean by 'recurrent implantation failure'? A systematic review and opinion Assisted oocyte activation following ICSI fertilization failure Causes, effects and molecular	S.P.,Campo R.,Gordts S.,Tarlatzis B.C.,Grimbizis G.F. Polanski L.T.,Baumgarten M.N.,Quenby S.,Brosens J.,Campbell B.K.,Raine-Fenning N.J. Vanden Meerschaut F.,Nikiforaki D.,Heindryckx B.,De Sutter P. Durairajanayagam D.,Agarwal	2014 2014	28/4 28/5	Review Review	Ν

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