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Journal Interviews : 2010 : L.J. Kricka on the Citation Record of Luminescence

JOURNAL INTERVIEWS - 2010

March 2010



Luminescence

Featured Journal Interview

According to a recent analysis of Essential Science IndicatorsSM data from Thomson Reuters, the journal *Luminescence* is having a growing impact in the field of Biology & Biochemistry. The journal's record in this field includes 540 papers cited a total of 2,837 times from January 1, 1999 to October 31, 2009.

Founded in 1986, *Luminescence* is published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Its current Editor-in-Chief is Professor L.J. Kricka of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

In this interview, ScienceWatch.com talks with Professor Kricka about the journal's history and citation achievements.

SW: Did you expect *Luminescence* to become highly cited, or is this surprising to you?

No, the citation success of *Luminescence* is not surprising in view of the fact that the various forms of luminescence, e.g., chemiluminescence, have emerged as the basis of many important analytical methods, both in research and in clinical analysis. The recent award of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the Green Fluorescent Protein work has also helped to further raise the visibility of luminescent techniques.

SW: How would you account for the increased citation rate of *Luminescence*?

The expanded scope of the journal from a focus on chemiluminescence and bioluminescence to all forms of luminescence (chemiluminescence, bioluminescence, electrochemiluminescence, sonoluminescence, triboluminescence, fluorescence, time-resolved fluorescence, and phosphorescence) has produced a broader base that has attracted a wider scientific audience and hence greater popularity for the journal. In addition, the expansion of scientific interest in luminescence from Asia and a sharp increase in manuscripts from the region has been very noticeable over recent years

and this has broadened the audience for this journal.

SW: Was there a change in policy or editorial direction that might account for this?

Several years ago we changed the name of the journal from the *Journal of Bioluminescence and Chemiluminescence* to simply *Luminescence*, and expanded the scope of the journal from a focus on chemiluminescence and bioluminescence to all forms of luminescence, as noted above. This broader base has provided a wider scientific audience and hence greater popularity. Another factor that has contributed to an increase in the impact of the journal has been electronic access to the journal through its [website](#).

"The journal provides a focus for work in both fundamental and applied luminescence of all different types."

SW: What historical factors have contributed to the success of *Luminescence*?

Luminescence was the first journal to focus on bioluminescence and chemiluminescence (as its predecessor the *Journal of Bioluminescence and Chemiluminescence*) and it was founded at a time of tremendous growth in the field. It provided a natural choice for scientists in this emerging field to publish their work and to keep abreast of the latest developments.

SW: Have there been specific developments in the fields served by *Luminescence* that may have contributed?

"The recent award of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the Green Fluorescent Protein work has also helped to further raise the visibility of luminescent techniques."

There are a number of important scientific developments linked to luminescence that have contributed to the success of the journal. In routine clinical laboratories, chemiluminescence became a dominant technology for routine immunoassay and nucleic acid assays. In parallel, chemiluminescence also became a dominant technology in the research laboratory for blotting and probing methods. Bioluminescence has also become an important technology in the research laboratory as a result of the cloning of genes from bioluminescent organisms, e.g., the luciferase from the firefly, and this is used extensively in expression studies. Fluorescence has experienced a growth in applications, especially in the form of genes for fluorescent proteins, such as Green Fluorescent Protein, and this has continued to fuel interest in luminescent methods in general.

SW: What, in your view, is this journal's main significance or contribution in the field of Biology & Biochemistry?

The journal provides a focus for fundamental and applied luminescence of all different types and publishes a bibliographic survey of which helps in positioning the periodical centrally in the community—one journal from which all the important research in the field can be uncovered.

SW: How do you see your field(s) evolving in the next few years?

I see continued progress in the understanding of the biology of bioluminescence and a steady expansion in the applications of all forms of luminescence.

SW: What role do you see for your journal?

The journal provides a focus for work in both fundamental and applied luminescence of all different types. It also provides a current awareness in the field through its publication of regular literature surveys, and timely abstracts from the major luminescence conferences. In fact, the journal has published the abstracts for the biannual International Bioluminescence and Chemiluminescence Symposium since 1988. ■


Additional information:

- *Luminescence* is a New Entrant in Biology & Biochemistry in **February 2010**.

KEYWORDS: LUMINESCENCE, BIOLUMINESCENCE, CHEMILUMINESCENCE, ELECTROCHEMILUMINESCENCE, SONOLUMINESCENCE, TRIBOLUMINESCENCE, FLUORESCENCE, TIME-RESOLVED FLUORESCENCE, PHOSPHORESCENCE, GREEN FLOURESCENT PROTEIN, GFP, IMMUNOASSAY, NUCLEIC ACID ASSAYS, BLOTTING, PROBING, BIOLUMINESCENT ORGANISMS, GENE EXPRESSION STUDIES, APPLICATIONS, CONFERENCES.



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