EDITOR'S NOTE

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According to the latest ISI Journal Citation Reports, the impact factor of our English journal is 0.33, which is still unsatisfactory for both readers and contributors. The editorial board has a critical role to play in further improving the quality of the Journal.

The purpose of science is to improve our standard of living, to make a contribution to society, and to show young people the importance of interest in the marvels of nature and the great significance of the process of investigating them. Similarly, the role of universities, research institutions, and scientific societies is to improve present academic standards and to nurture the next generation of researchers. Particularly for the latter, it is important to make an impression on young people and let them experience the wonder and excitement of research activities.

If the starting point of education for young people is letting them be impressed with success after suffering hardships and motivating them to become spirited researchers and engineers, I would greatly appreciate it if excellent research results worldwide could be shared with readers who look through the articles in this academic journal and if readers could also be impressed by such results as well as by the authors who conducted the research and prepared the articles. I would like to ask all medical doctors and engineers in the field of medical ultrasound around the world to submit their research work to the *Journal of Medical Ultrasonics*.

Hiroshi KANAI Editor-in-Chief **Acknowledgments** To show our appreciation, I would like to list the names of the doctors who were not referees but reviewed research papers during the period from 1 September 2011 to 31 July 2012.

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