

Letter from the Special Issue Editor

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to bring to our readership this special issue that celebrates the launching of the **NSF/Keck Foundation—National fMRI Data Center**. Fifteen different laboratories across the world were invited to participate in this special issue and thirteen provided us an enthusiastic response. Several other laboratories learned of this special issue and asked to take part. Unfortunately, due to page limitations, we were not able to consider these additional papers, but look forward to their participation through the normal channels of publishing in JOCN. With the publication of this issue, the data sets comprising these papers have been simultaneously deposited in the **National fMRI Data Center** for public access.

JOCN is excited about the role the fMRI Data Center will play in the future of cognitive neuroscience. We believe new breakthroughs in data mining and data analysis will come out of this project, and we wish to vigorously participate in this new area of databasing neuroscientific findings. Accordingly, we have established a new policy. All papers considered for publication in JOCN, if accepted, will be required to submit their data to the Data Center. Our goal is to make data submission as streamlined as possible, requiring minimal effort on the part of the author. The experience gained by the scientists at the fMRI Data Center with

the large amount of data submitted with this special issue should allow us to achieve this goal for future submissions.

We are aware that some members of the fMRI community have reservations about this policy and we respect those views. For the most part, researchers are concerned that depositing their data will not provide them with sufficient time to consider all aspects of their data. To meet this concern, the Data Center will offer an optional 6-month hold on their data.

We believe the initial reluctance on the part of some colleagues is understandable, but will be short lived. The fMRI Data Center is here to serve the field and, as new ways of benefiting from this data become apparent to one and all, we hope that not only authors working with JOCN will deposit their data, but that all leading cognitive neuroscientists will participate as well.

We would like to thank the hard-working authors who made this special issue possible. It is an outstanding effort.

Cordially,

Mark D'Esposito
Senior Editor