

New Physics Journal Earns High Impact Factor in First Reporting Period UH Physicist Zhifeng Ren is Editor-in-Chief of Materials Today Physics

Just three years after its launch, an academic journal led by Zhifeng Ren, director of the [Texas Center for Superconductivity](#) at the University of Houston, has earned an impact factor putting it in the top 2% of all scientific journals.

[Materials Today Physics](#) earned an impact factor of 10.443, the first year it was eligible for the rating. According to SCIJournal.org, an impact factor of 10 or higher is considered "excellent." Fewer than 2% of scientific journals reach that benchmark, the organization reported; physics and astronomy journals have an average impact factor of 2.9.

Ren, who also is M.D. Anderson Professor of Physics in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, launched the journal, published by Elsevier, in the summer of 2017. It focuses on the fundamental materials synthesis and physics of new and emerging functional materials.

Ren serves as editor-in-chief with David Singh, University of Missouri Columbia, and Takao Mori, National Institute for Materials Science in Tsukuba-Shi, Japan, as the associate editors.

The impact factor of a scientific journal is a measure of the frequency with which its articles are cited in a particular year. Calculated by [Clarivate Analytics](#), the impact factor is calculated based on a two-year period, and this is the first year Materials Today Physics was eligible to have its impact factor ranked.

Ren said the ranking places Materials Today Physics No. 2 among 54 physics and astronomy journals, as well as No. 2 among 23 energy-focused journals and No. 41 among 460 materials science journals.

"Such a high ranking is extremely difficult to achieve, considering the journal's short history," Ren said. "With such an outstanding start, we expect it will further grow its reputation and impact factor."