

AJPA Editor-in-Chief Report 2019

1. General Remarks

The past year we celebrated the 100th in the journal's history with the release of a special Centennial Issue comprised of 22 essays from a diverse range of scholars reflecting on the development of numerous subfields in our discipline over the past century. This issue stands an important exercise in self-assessment joining the legacy of the past to the trajectory of the future. I thank my co-editors of that issue, Matt Cartmill, Clark Larsen, Chris Ruff, and Emöké Szathmáry, as well as all the contributors for making it such a stunning success.

The journal also saw its impact factor rise by a notable 13.6% over the previous year to 2.901, approaching the goal of 3.0 that I set for myself when becoming EIC.

Last spring the production company that Wiley had used to publish many of its journals including the AJPA abruptly declared bankruptcy. The transition to a new production company has now been completed successfully and our new production editor, Donna Tarman, and her staff are wonderfully diligent and responsive.

A new Editor-in-Chief is to be appointed this year to carry forward the stewardship of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, though at the time of this writing the announcement of this appointment has not yet been made. I look forward to working with the new EIC on a smooth transition.

2. Metrics

During 2017 the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* published three volumes (165-167) of four numbers each, totaling 2,897 pages, not including the Annual Meeting supplement or the *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*, a 13.5% increase in total content over 2016. The published content included 140 Research Articles, 25 Brief Communications, 22 Centennial Perspectives, 2 Centennial Commentaries, 8 Technical Notes, 1 Theory and Synthesis, 2 Perspective, 3 News and Views, 3 Book Reviews, 2 Obituaries, 1 Editorial, 4 Letters to the Editor, 3 Errata and Corrigenda, and the Proceedings of the 2016 Annual Meeting of the AAPA.

The flow of manuscripts in 2017 ebbed somewhat with a total of 407 manuscripts received (not including book reviews), a reduction of 12.3% from the previous year (464). Manuscripts originated from 50 different countries, with the major sources, after the United States (33.4%), being the UK (8.3%), France (5.1%), Canada (4.4%), Italy (4.1%), Spain (3.9%), Germany (3.2%), Japan (3.2%), Poland (2.9%), Brazil (2.9%), India (2.7%), China (2.4%), and Australia (2.0%).

The acceptance rate for manuscripts is currently 48% compared to 49% at this time last year. The average time from submission to first decision is currently 38.2 days (down from 40.2 days last year), and the average time from submission to final decision is 56.2 days (down from 65.4 days last year). Appearance of accepted articles on line in Early View (at which point the publication is official, searchable, and citable) is slightly over two weeks after acceptance on average, the major variable being the speed with which proofs are returned by authors.

The breakdown of substantive publications in *AJPA* by major subject in 2018 area continued to be distributed across six broad areas: primate physiology/ecology/behavior

(22.5%), osteology/dental anthro/biomechanics (22%), bioarchaeology/paleopathology (20%), human physiology/ecology/behavior (14%), primate/human paleontology (17%), genetics/genomics/phylogenetics (12%) and human and primate paleontology (6.5%).

As noted in *General Remarks*, the impact factor for *AJPA* calculated by ISI/Web of Science for 2017 (the index is always lagged two years) was 2.901, a 13.6% increase over 2016 (2.552), which itself was a 6.2% increase over 2015 (2.402). Over the past two years the increase has been 20.8%, or approximately 10% per year. This two-year period includes citations to material published since the beginning of my editorship. In comparison, this year *JHE*'s impact factor only increased 1.5%, from 3.932 to 3.992. When I assumed the position of Editor-in-Chief of the *AJPA* I declared my wish to see its impact factor rise above 3. We haven't quite reached that benchmark, but the impact factors for the next two years will continue to reflect the period I have been EIC. We might still make it. If not, I bequeath the goal to my successor.

Currently *AJPA* ranks 8th out of 85 anthropology journals and 22nd out of 49 evolutionary biology journals in impact factor. We continue to far outdistance our peer journals, however, in the total number of articles published and citations received.

3. Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to the Associate Editors of the journal for their diligent efforts in shepherding the review process for so many submissions and for helping to significantly reduce the time manuscripts spend in review. Changes in the editorial board for the next year have not yet been decided pending the appointment of the new EIC. I would like to extend special thanks to Assistant Editor Pippi Ellison, our journal manager at Wiley, Paul-André Genest, and our new production editor, Donna Tarman. I would like to thank the membership of the AAPA for their participation in the process of peer review. For all its faults, peer review remains the foundation of integrity in scientific publishing. I hope everyone takes seriously their responsibility to participate. And finally, I thank the AAPA for the opportunity to serve as Editor-in-Chief of such a distinguished journal.