

American Journal of Biological Anthropology
Report of the Editor-in-Chief, Trudy R. Turner

General Remarks

While this year has been a more typical year for the journal, we are still seeing some lingering effects of the global pandemic. As with most Wiley journals, the number of published manuscripts is down somewhat; we are also seeing an increase in time from submission to acceptance for articles. These seem to be industry wide trends. Everyone associated with AJBA remains committed to providing the best possible science in a timely manner.

The journal has instituted several changes this year. Probably the most notable has been the separation of the *Yearbook* and *AJBA* web presence. In terms of the review process, we instituted coordination of decision terms. In the past, editorial board members and associate editors had a different list of potential decisions than the editor-in-chief. These are now coordinated and everyone is using the same decision terms. We have also shortened the time to decision for all members of the editorial board. We hope this will facilitate the timely handling of manuscripts. We have also instituted a policy that we will not publish a manuscript until the Data Availability Statement is complete and easily found in the manuscript. We have had a requirement for a data availability statement for two years, but now will no longer issue a final acceptance of a manuscript without the statement being clearly evident. Last year we instituted a requirement that authors of manuscripts that dealt with human genetics or human remains fill out a form entitled Genetics Research of Human Remains and provide a blank informed consent form to be included in Supplemental Materials not for Review. The material on the form would also be summarized in the Materials and Methods section of the manuscript. The requirement has been in place for a year and the editorial board is currently engaged in reviewing how this requirement has been working. We always understood that the requirement would be reviewed and we welcome any comments that members of our community wish to provide.

If we feel a manuscript submitted to *AJBA* is better suited to another journal, we have the ability to either transfer or refer the manuscript. If the manuscript is clearly out of the scope of the journal, I can immediately transfer it to a Wiley service that will try to place the manuscript appropriately. If the manuscript is potentially of interest to the readers of the journal, I will confer with an Associate Editor and together we will make a decision about either having the manuscript reviewed or refer it to a journal with which we have a cascading arrangement. We can refer manuscripts to the *Yearbook of Biological Anthropology*, the *American Journal of Human Biology*, the *American Journal of Primatology*, the *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, the *Journal of Forensic Science*, and the *Anatomical Record*. These journals can also refer manuscripts to the *AJBA*. We are currently exploring other journals to add to our cascade list. In 2022, 11% of articles submitted for publication were transferred and 9% were referred to journals in our cascade. Approximately 48% of both transferred and referred articles were submitted to other journals and about 20% of these were published elsewhere; of the total articles sent out, 10% were ultimately published.

This year we will offer authors the opportunity to provide a second or third language abstract. Authors will be responsible for the translations and these will not be copyedited by the production staff. We hope all authors will take advantage of this and make their work accessible to a wider audience.

While we did not publish any special issues this past year, we have seven in process; three are very near completion and will be published this year. We welcome additional ideas for special issues. Please feel free to contact me if you have an idea.

The 2022 editorial board included seven associate editors, thirty-two editorial board members, seven early career editorial board members, a digital fellow and two media review editors. Several members of the editorial board are leaving the board this year. I am incredibly grateful to Sheela Athreya, Hallie Buckley, Omer Gokcumen, Karim Quattara, Laurie Reitsema, Amanda Thompson, Tiffany Tung and Laura Wilson for their exemplary service on the board. Being a member of the editorial board requires time and dedication and all our members have worked very hard. I am also indebted to Kieran McNulty for his service as associate editor. I am incredibly grateful to Kieran for his service. I am also especially grateful to Graciela Cabana and Lauren Schroeder for their editorship of Media Reviews. They are also leaving the journal this year. Thank you to all editorial board members for your efforts. Mark Kissel and Ryan Harrod have taken over as editors of the reviews and we all look forward to your continuing the exceptional work of Graciela and Lauren. This year we welcomed Kanya Godde Chrisco, Noreen von Cramon-Taubadel, and Jamie Hodgkins to the editorial board. We will be adding additional members during the year. We are accepting applications and recommendations for these positions. We have publicized this call on the AABA website and through social media. If you are interested, please contact me.

At the meeting this year, Sheela Athreya and I offered a workshop on Equitable Peer Review in Biological Anthropology. We hope to offer this workshop every other year and offer other workshops in the future.

Being somewhat over half-way through my tenure as Editor-in-chief of the journal prompted me to assess my goals for the rest of my time with the journal. I plan to work on two areas—increasing the percentage of open access publications in the journal and strengthening and supporting the journal's relationship with the association. Currently about one-third of the articles we publish are open access. My goal is to try to increase that ten percent a year, so that in three years we will be at close to two-thirds open access. One way to do this is to take better advantage of Wiley's transitional deals or transformational agreements. These are contracts between institutions (libraries, national or regional consortia) and publishers that transition the business model over time from one based on a paywall to one where publishers are paid for open access publishing services. At this point Wiley has 65 of these contracts; most include multiple institutions. This is nearly double the number of contracts that were available last year. We hope to offer webinars to authors in countries that have these agreements about the scope and aims of the journal and further encourage appropriate submissions. In order to support the relationship between the journal and the association, we are beginning discussions

on ways to recognize reviewers to the journal. I hope to be able to report on this further next year and in editorials in the journal.

Metrics

During 2022, the journal published three volumes (177-179), each of which had four issues with a total page count of 2185. This total is less than 2021, but is closer to what we have published in previous years. This does not include the two supplements: the annual meetings issue and the *Yearbook of Biological Anthropology*. In 2022, we received 382 submissions and published 186 manuscripts. Submissions to the journal increased slightly over 2021 (1.1%) while published content decreased by 9.7%. The published content included: research articles (61% of the total published pages), brief communication (13%), media reviews (16%), technical notes (3%), synthesis (2%), commentary (1%) and other (including resources, review articles, letters to the editor, editorials – all at less than 1%).

While we received 382 original submissions, this number does not represent the number of requests we send out for review. Almost every article is revised and resubmitted, often more than once. We send out of over 1300 requests for review. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who reviews for us; however, nearly half of all review requests are declined. Unfortunately, this has led to an increase in the time from submission to acceptance or rejections. While our median for decision is 49 days, this includes all transfers and referrals. This number increases substantially if those articles are removed. Please accept our gratitude for the work you do and our encouragement to continue to do so.

The acceptance rate for 2022 for all material was 49%. Articles submitted from the United States constitute 37% of all articles. The countries with the next greatest number of submissions following the US are China, United Kingdom, Spain, Canada, India, France, Australia, Poland, Brazil and Argentina. We continue to reduce the number of days from receipt of a final manuscript to Early View, which is to the credit of the Wiley production staff.

Last year there were approximately 748,000 downloads of articles, down about 20% from the year before. Citations of articles in the journal are steady at about 100,000 a year. The impact factor calculated by the ISI/Web of Science for 2021 was 2.963. The *AJBA* ranks 15/93 in Anthropology journals and 30/50 in Evolutionary Biology journals. While I will continue to report IF for the journal, I would like to call your attention to the DORA agreement recently endorsed by Wiley. The San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment overarching goal is to shift emphasis away from journal-based metrics, toward article-level metrics and individual author contribution for a broader, more equitable view and assessment of research impact. In order to accomplish this, journals will greatly reduce emphasis on the journal impact factor (IF) as a promotional tool, make available a range of article-level metrics, and encourage responsible authorship practices and highlight the specific contributions of each author. You will notice in the future additional metrics on the *AJBA* homepage including the Journal Citation indicator.

Research publications can be broken down into six general subject areas: Bioarchaeology/Paleopathology (36%), Paleoanthropology (6%), Skeletal Biology (22%), Genetics/Genomics (9%), Primatology (9%), Human Biology (9%), Media Reviews (9%) and Other (1%). One of my goals is to have every issue of the journal include articles of interest to all the membership. In order to achieve this, I encourage all members of the association to send their best work to the *AJBA*.

Acknowledgments

I am extremely grateful to the Associate Editors and the Editorial Board Members of the journal. I remain in awe of your dedication, insight, care and diligence as you shepherd manuscripts through the process. Your work has been remarkable. For those retiring from the editorial board this year— again thank you for your dedication and your time. I am also extremely grateful to all the reviewers. It is your work that allows us to continue our work. The peer review process depends on reviewers who take their time to ensure the best possible science. Reviewers give us their time when they are undoubtedly pulled in many, many different directions. You are the heart of this process and all of us are so grateful for your efforts. I am also very grateful to Gillian Greenough, our publisher at Wiley. Gillian has been a great partner in navigating some crucial issues the journal has faced. Gillian and the staff, especially Felicia Bonanno at Wiley, have been vital to the continued success of the journal. Thank you also to Reeni Sunder and the production staff for their attention to so many details and their excellent work. I am deeply grateful to the AABA for the opportunity to edit the journal. Thank you all.