

***American Journal of Physical Anthropology***  
**Report of the Editor, Trudy R. Turner**

**General Remarks**

This has been a year of transition for the *AJPA*. My tenure as Editor-in-Chief began in April and I took over fully in June. I am extremely grateful to Peter Ellison for his aid in the transition as well as for his remarkable stewardship of the journal for the past six years. I am also grateful to the staff at Wiley for their expertise in transitioning the journal.

There are several changes at the journal. Probably the biggest change has been the move to having Associate Editors in addition to Editorial Board Members. There are currently five Associate Editors, each of whom works closely with about five Editorial Board Members. When an article comes in, I review it and decide which Associate Editor will oversee the article. The Associate Editors--Lynne Isbell, Kieran McNulty, Connie Mulligan, Tracy Prowse, and Claudia Valeggia--then decide which member of the editorial board has the expertise to best continue the process. This system gives us extra eyes on an article, if needed, and allows us to ensure that articles are appropriate for the journal. In most years, about a third of the editorial board transitions; this year almost the entire editorial board is new. We have also introduced five Early Career Editorial Board Members who work closely with the Associate Editors in learning the roles and responsibilities of the editorial board. In addition, we now have a Digital Fellow who has worked to increase the presence of the *AJPA* on digital media. All these changes have presented us with huge learning opportunities, and we are grateful for the association's support as we work through this new system. I am enormously grateful to all the members of the editorial board for their hard work, expertise and thoughtful consideration.

In terms of the offerings of the journal, we have introduced a Commentary section. We welcome your opinions and hope we can continue to use this section to discuss issues of importance in the field. In addition, all research papers now are required to have a data access statement.

**Metrics**

During 2019, the journal published three volumes (168-170), each of which had four issues with a total page count of 2,209. This does not include the two supplements: the annual meetings issue and the *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*. For 2019, the published content included: research articles (73% of the total published pages), brief communications (16%), letters to the editor (4%), technical notes (2%), book reviews (2%), theory and synthesis (1%) and other (news and views, perspectives, review, viewpoint, commentary – together 1.5%).

A total of 420 articles were submitted in 2019. The acceptance rate for all material was 48%; the acceptance rate for research articles was 41%. This is approximately the same as the rate for 2018. Articles in which the first author was from the United States account for 33% of all submissions. However, these articles account for 47% of acceptances. Wiley does offer English language support that we recommend to authors. We receive manuscripts from 52 other countries. The average number of days to first decision was 47. We have reduced the median

time from submission to online publication to 152 days, but it is our goal to reduce that and day to first decision substantially this coming year.

Last year there were 620,000 downloads of articles, up about 12% from the year before. The impact factor calculated by the ISI/Web of Science for 2018 was 2.662, which is down somewhat from the previous year. The *AJPA* ranks 14/90 of Anthropology journals and 22/50 of Evolutionary Biology journals.

Research publications can be broken down into six general subject areas: Bioarchaeology/paleopathology (34.8%), Paleontology/skeletal biology (19.6%), Human biology (13.3%), Genetics and genomics (12.9%) and Primatology (8.9%), Other (10.2%).

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 *AJPA*.

### **Acknowledgments**

I am extremely grateful to the Associate Editors and the Editorial Board Members of the journal. It has been amazing to work with you and to watch your care and diligence as you shepherd manuscripts through the process. For all of us, it has been a year of learning new things and I applaud your efforts. I am also extremely grateful to all the reviewers. The peer review process depends on reviewers who take their time to ensure the best possible science. I am also very grateful to Paul-André Genest at Wiley for his counsel and support. He and his staff at Wiley have been crucial to the continued success of the journal. I am also grateful to Donna Tarman and the production staff for their attention to so many details and their excellent work. I am deeply grateful to the AAPA for the opportunity to edit the journal. Thank you all.