

***American Journal of Biological Anthropology***  
**Report of the Editor-in-Chief, 2022**  
**Submitted by Trudy R. Turner**

**General Remarks**

Despite continuing disruption in our lives due to the Covid pandemic, the *American Journal of Biological Anthropology* remains a vital resource for our community. Everyone associated with the journal remains committed to providing the biological anthropology community and the AABA with the best possible science in as timely a manner as possible.

One of the most important things we did this year was prepare for the name change of the journal—the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* is now known as the *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*. All of us associated with the journal felt strongly that the journal and the association should be known by the same name. In order to accomplish this, we had to do several things, many of which were done by Wiley. Wiley secured a new ISSN and worked with abstracting and indexing groups to make them aware of the change. Internally at Wiley various systems were updated to reflect the name change, and there was a complete rebuild of the website and redesign of the cover. In addition, a media campaign was initiated to inform target audiences of the change. Paul-Andre Genest of Wiley was instrumental in making this all happen. From an editorial standpoint what we needed to do with articles was make sure that everything that was available in Early View and typeset as *AJPA* was published in the journal before the name changed. In order to accomplish this, we set a cut-off date in mid-September. The last several issues of *AJPA* were somewhat longer than usual to accommodate all articles that needed to have an *AJPA* designation. Articles that were accepted from mid-September on were not placed into Early View until the official name change in January. We notified all authors that this would be the case. All in all, the name change occurred without any disruption to the journal and we are all very grateful to everyone who helped make that happen.

An increase in the number of associate editors to facilitate the processing of manuscripts also took place this year. We added an additional associate editor for bioarchaeology and a separate associate editor for skeletal biology. As you will see below, these areas of the discipline made up a substantial portion of the manuscripts received, and we have seen that this increase in associate editors has made processing more efficient. We welcome Tracy Kivell and Daniel Temple as associate editors joining Lynne Isbell, Kieran McNulty, Connie Mulligan, Tracy Prowse, and Claudia Vaggia. With the addition of two new associate editors, we needed to also expand the editorial board. We welcome Sheela Athreya, Carlina de la Cova, Florent Detroit, Klaus Haagen, Marin Pilloud, Gabrielle Russo, and Tiffany Tung to the editorial board. We also welcome a new group of early career editorial board members. At the beginning of the year, we sent out a call for applications for these positions. We received over fifty applications for seven positions. The new early career editorial board members are Victoria Dominguez, Myra Laird, Aida Miro, Tesla Monson, Kimberly Plomp, Clara Scarry, and Eric Shattuck. The early career editorial position is a two-year position. If you applied and were not chosen for an early career position this year, please try again. These positions allow early

career colleagues to work with an associate editor in learning the mechanics of the review process. In addition, the seven new early career editorial board members and the former members will be working together on a special issue of the journal.

This year we also updated the Aims and Scope of the journal. This information can be found on the *AJBA* website under Author Guidelines. We made it explicit that we expect there to be an anthropological or evolutionary context to manuscripts we publish. In addition, we now have a statement on the use of human remains in research. The editorial board understands that this is an evolving statement, and we will work with the AABA committee on Community Partnership to refine the statement as needed. This year Connie Mulligan and the editorial board members who work on manuscripts emphasizing genetics and genomics have also provided instructions to authors on what materials need to be provided regarding community consultation for acceptance of manuscripts.

The journal offers the possibility of transfer to other Wiley journals. If we feel a manuscript is better suited to another journal, we are able to transfer the manuscript and associated reviews to a different journal. We have transfer cascades with the *Yearbook of Biological Anthropology*, the *American Journal of Human Biology*, the *American Journal of Primatology* and the *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*. This year we added the *Journal of Forensic Science* to our transfer list, and we are exploring adding additional journals. Thirty-seven manuscripts were transferred to these other journals in 2021; twelve manuscripts were transferred in from other journals to the *AJBA*.

In 2021 we published one Special Issue- Race Reconciled II-Interpreting and communicating biological variation in race in 2021. The issue was edited by Connie Mulligan and Jennifer Raff. We have two special issues in process currently. We are always looking for additional ideas for special issues. Please feel free to contact me if you have an idea.

Last year Paul-Andre Genest of Wiley, Sheela Athreya and I offered a workshop on Equitable Peer Review in Biological Anthropology. Sometime later this year we will offer a workshop on publishing. We hope to ultimately offer these workshops in alternating years at the annual meetings in the future.

Wiley has added many new 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 33 of these contracts; most include multiple institutions. Please be aware of these; they may benefit you.

## **Metrics**

During 2021, the journal published three volumes (174-176), each of which had four issues with a total page count of 2,552. This total is slightly less than 2020, 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*. For 2021, the published content included: research articles (67.5% of the total published pages), brief communication (10.8%), media reviews (11.1%), technical notes (3.3%), synthesis (2.8%), perspectives (1.1%) commentary (1.1%) and other (including resources, review articles, letters to the editor, editorials – all at less than 1.% - 2.3%). This year we have seen a real expansion in media reviews due to the incredible efforts of Graciela Cabana and Lauren Schroeder, the Media Review Editors. Thank you for your extraordinary enthusiasm and work.

A total of 380 new manuscripts were submitted in 2021. This represents a decrease of 14% from 2020. However, 2020, as we all know, was an exceptional year. We saw an increase in submissions and pages published in 2020. The past year seems more similar to previous years. We will keep a close eye on trends in publications numbers. The acceptance rate for all material was 54.5%. 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, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Nigeria, Poland and Brazil. The average number of days to first decision was 51. This is the same as it was for 2020 and somewhat above the median for all Wiley journals. 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 close to 1 million downloads of articles, up about 9% 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 2.868, which is a 16% increase over the previous year. The *AJBA* ranks 15/93 in Anthropology journals and 27/50 in Evolutionary Biology journals.

Research publications can be broken down into six general subject areas: Bioarchaeology/Paleopathology (32%), Paleoanthropology (13%), Skeletal Biology (15%), Genetics/Genomics (10%), Primatology (8%), Human Biology (7%), Media Reviews (14%) and Other (1%). The real difference between this year and last is in the number of media reviews. 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— editorial board members Shara Bailey and Katherine Jack—thank you for your dedication and your time. I am also extremely grateful to all the reviewers. We send out over 1,300 requests for review over the course of the year. 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 Paul-Andre Genest. Paul-Andre has left Wiley. He has been a great supporter of the journal and we will miss his counsel and support. We look forward to working with Gillian Greenough. Gillian and the staff, especially Olivia Barry and Felicia Bonanno at Wiley, have been crucial 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.