

## ***American Journal of Physical Anthropology, Editor-in-chief's Report, 2017***

### **1. General Remarks**

This past year, 2016, marked the transition of the journal to a purely digital format. Print copies may still be ordered by AAPA members at a modest surcharge, but are no longer routinely supplied. This change was undertaken unilaterally by the publisher, Wiley, in the face of declining institutional print subscriptions.

After a period of some confusion last year when the journal was lacking an assigned manager at Wiley, we are now pleased to have that position filled by Paul-André Genest, known to some of us through his previous position with Elsevier as the journal manager for the *Journal of Human Evolution*.

Wiley has not yet undertaken the regular distribution of an electronic table of contents to alert members to the appearance and content of new issues and to provide “click through” access. We hope that will be forthcoming in the near future. In the meantime, our management company, Burk Associates, has stepped into the breach to help generate and distribute an electronic table of contents. Hopefully this is keeping members informed and aware of newly published content in the journal.

As of September, 2106, Wiley increased the charge for gold Open Access publication (immediately freely available with author retention of copyright) from \$3000 per article to \$4200 per article, a 40% increase. Few AAPA members have grants that cover these charges, effectively placing gold Open Access publication out of the reach of many. Even institutions that provide subvention to faculty authors without grant support for gold Open Access publication do not usually consider charges in excess of \$3000. This is an issue of increasing concern as a number of major funding agencies, such as the MRC of the UK and the Wellcome Institute require any research that they fund to be published with gold Open Access. We continue to engage with our publisher over these issues.

Next year, 2018, is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the journal by Ales Hrdlička. Together with former editors Matt Cartmill, Clark Larsen, Christopher Ruff, and Emokë Szathmary, we will be assembling a special commemorative issue of the journal composed of invited Centennial Perspectives on the field of physical anthropology and its subdisciplines over the past century. In addition, I invite any interested AAPA member to consider submitting a Centennial Commentary, consisting of a brief critical assessment of a single article published in the journal since its founding and its impact, either general or personal. Centennial Commentaries will be published on a rolling basis throughout the year.

### **2. Metrics**

During 2016 the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* published three volumes (159-161) of four numbers each, totaling 2,248 pages, not including the Annual Meeting supplement or the *Yearbook*. The published content included 148 Research Articles, 20 Brief Communications, 4

Technical Notes, 4 Theory and Synthesis, 7 Book Reviews, 1 Obituary, 9 Letters to the Editor, 1 Editorial, 3 Errata, and the Proceedings of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the AAPA.

The flow of manuscripts in 2015 remained high with a total of 432 manuscripts received (not including book reviews) (Figure 1). Manuscripts originated from 39 different countries, with the major sources, after the United States (154), being the UK (45), France (22), Italy (19), Spain (17), Germany (15), and Chile (14).

The acceptance rate for manuscripts is currently 44%. The average time from submission to first decision is 41.1 days, and the average time from submission to final decision is 64.6 days. This represents a slight increase from last year's report (34.0 days and 57.9 days respectively), but overall maintains the significant improvement over the past when mean time from receipt to final decision was nearly three times as long. 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 area continues to be distributed across six broad areas: bioarchaeology/paleopathology (25.4%), osteology/dental anthro/biomechanics (22.6%), primate physiology/ecology/behavior (15.8%), genetics/genomics/phylogenetics (11.9%), primate/human paleontology (11.9%), and human physiology/ecology/behavior (11.3%).

The impact factor for *AJPA* calculated by ISI/Web of Science for 2015 (the index is always lagged two years) was 2.402, a marginal increase over 2013 (2.379). In comparison, *JHE*'s impact factor also marginally increased, from 3.733 to 3.767, while *Evolutionary Anthropology* (3.866 to 2.455, down 36%) and *Current Anthropology* (2.560 to 2.037, down 21%) both saw significant declines in impact factor. Currently *AJPA* ranks 8<sup>th</sup> out of 84 anthropology 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. Christopher Stojanowsky is rotating off the Editorial Board this year and deserves special thanks for his service. Joining the Board as his successor is George R. Scott. I would like to extend special thanks to Assistant Editor Pippi Ellison, our journal manager at Wiley, Paul-André Genest, and our production editors, Thomas Manbeck. Special thanks are due to Brett Burk of Burk Associates for composing and distributing our electronic table of contents. 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 *AJPA*.