

***American Journal of Physical Anthropology***  
**2017-18 Editor's Report,**  
**Submitted by Peter Ellison (Editor)**

## **1. General Remarks**

This year, 2018, marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. To mark the occasion we organized a special Centennial Issue of the journal, including 24 Centennial Perspectives invited from colleagues reflecting on the trajectory of scholarship across the discipline since the journal's founding. The publisher has agreed to make the content of this special issue freely available on the web. In addition, AAPA members who wish to may order individual copies of this issue in print form. We have also invited submission of Centennial Commentaries, commenting on the impact, either personal or disciplinary, of any articles from the journal's history of publication. We will be accepting submissions under this category throughout the year.

In all other respects the journal continues to flourish, as reflected in the metrics reviewed below.

## **2. Metrics**

During 2017 the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* published three volumes (162-164) of four numbers each, totaling 2,552 pages, not including the Annual Meeting supplement or the *Yearbook*. The published content included 146 Research Articles, 28 Brief Communications, 7 Technical Notes, 2 Theory and Synthesis, 2 Perspectives, 9 Book Reviews, 2 Obituaries, 4 Letters to the Editor, 4 Errata, and the Proceedings of the 2016 Annual Meeting of the AAPA.

The flow of manuscripts in 2017 remained high with a total of 464 manuscripts received (not including book reviews). Manuscripts originated from 56 different countries, with the major sources, after the United States (32.1%), being the UK (7.3%), Spain (5.8%), France (5.2%), China (3.9%), Italy (3.7%), Brazil (3.2%), and Australia (3.2%).

The acceptance rate for manuscripts is currently 49%. This figure is up slightly due in large part to the invited content of the special Centennial issue. The average time from submission to first decision is currently 40.2 days, and the average time from submission to final decision is 65.4 days, both numbers very stable over the past several years. 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 2017 area continued to be distributed across six broad areas: bioarchaeology/paleopathology (26%), osteology/dental anthro/biomechanics (19%), primate physiology/ecology/behavior (19%), human physiology/ecology/behavior (14%), primate/human paleontology (12%), and genetics/genomics/phylogenetics (11%).

The impact factor for *AJPA* calculated by ISI/Web of Science for 2016 (the index is always lagged two years) was 2.552, a 6.2% increase over 2015 (2.402). In comparison, *JHE*'s impact

factor increased 4.4%, from 3.767 to 3.932. Currently *AJPA* ranks 10<sup>th</sup> out of 82 anthropology journals and 24<sup>th</sup> out of 48 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. David Watts is rotating off the Editorial Board this year and deserves special thanks for his service. Joining the Board as his successor is Martin Muller. 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. 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.