

## From the Editor

# Proceedings of the Editorial Board Meeting of *The American Journal of Cardiology* on March 17, 2019, in New Orleans, Louisiana



The annual editorial board meeting of *The American Journal of Cardiology (AJC)* was held on March 17, 2019, at the time of the Annual Scientific Sessions of the American College of Cardiology. The major purpose of the meeting is to thank the editorial board members for their considerable help during the previous year in reviewing manuscripts and to seek their suggestions for improving the journal.

Topics discussed initially at the meeting:

1. Top 20 board reviewers for the AJC in 2018 (Table 1).
2. Number of manuscripts submitted to the AJC in 2018 and the number accepted and declined (Table 2).
3. Number of manuscripts submitted and accepted in the AJC from 1983 to 2018 (36 years) (Table 3), the duration of the full years of the present editorship. (It began in June 1982.)
4. Total number of pages, types and topics of articles published in the AJC in 2018 (Table 4).

Table 1  
2018 Top Board Reviewers (Top 10%) (Among 199) for the AJC

Name	Manuscripts Reviewed
Robert L. Rosenthal	10
Victoria Delgado	10
Toby R. Engel	8
H. Vernon Anderson	7
Monty M. Bodenheimer	7
Pablo Avanzas	7
Danny Chu	7
Martin A. Alpert	6
James Blankenship	6
Eric R. Bates	6
Michael E. Cain	5
Marc Cohen	5
S. David Gertz	5
Christopher L. Hansen	5
Eugene H. Chung	4
Allen L. Dollar	4
Jeroen J. Bax	4
J. Dawn Abbott	4
Gregory J. Dehmer	4
John A. Elefteriades	4

Table 2  
Manuscripts Submitted to the AJC in 2018

Total Submitted	3,479
Accepted	624 (18%)
Declined	2,855 (82%)

\*Excludes 52 Readers' Comments submitted in 2018 of which 31 (60%) were accepted

The year 2018 was a good one for the AJC. The number of manuscripts submitted in 2018 increased 3.4% from the previous year (3,360 → 3,479), an average of 67 per week of which an average of 12 were accepted each week. The acceptance rate decreased from 19% in 2017 to 18% in 2018. The acceptance rate has continued to decrease during the present editorship even though the AJC publishes more manuscripts each year than any other cardiology journal in the world. A total of 573 articles were published in the AJC in 2018, a decrease from 700 published in 2017. This number excludes Readers' Comments (Letters to the Editor). There is no limitation in the total number of tables and figures in articles

Table 3  
Number of Manuscripts Submitted and Accepted in the AJC from 1983 Through 2018 (36 Years) (During the Present Editorship)

Year	Number Submitted	Number Accepted	Percent Accepted
1983	1,234	643	52%
1984	1,605	747	46%
1985	1,707	645	38%
1986	1,574	616	39%
1987	1,525	695	46%
1988	1,496	636	42%
1989	1,740	699	40%
1990	1,717	662	38%
1991	1,615	680	42%
1992	1,873	664	35%
1993	1,997	619	31%
1994	1,783	604	34%
1995	1,844	668	36%
1996	1,930	701	36%
1997	1,898	768	40%
1998	1,992	631	31%
1999	2,170	703	32%
2000	2,226	630	28%
2001	2,068	682	33%
2002	2,171	683	31%
2003	2,190	783	36%
2004	2,109	842	39%
2005	2,661	984	37%
2006	3,016	653	21%
2007	3,184	710	22%
2008	2,888	709	25%
2009	2,864	728	25%
2010	2,893	684	24%
2011	2,951	702	24%
2012	2,713	685	25%
2013	2,904	665	23%
2014	3,057	670	22%
2015	3,147	660	21%
2016	3,198	658	21%
2017	3,360	648	19%
2018	3,479	624	18%
Total	82,779	24,781	30%

Table 4  
Total Number of Pages, Types and Topics of Articles Published in the AJC in 2018

<b>EDITORIAL PAGES</b>	3,891
Articles	3,735 (96%)
Staff and Editorial Board	48 (1%)
Table of Contents	66 (1.7%)
Readers' Comments (total) [replies]	42 (38) [0] (1%)
<b>TYPES OF ARTICLES - TOTAL</b>	573
Multi-Patient Studies	532
Reviews	17
Historic Studies	6
Electrocardiographic Reports	6
Editorials	5
Case Reports	4
From-the-Editor Columns	2
Interview	1
<b>TOPICS OF ARTICLES – TOTAL</b>	573
Coronary Artery Disease	165
Valvular Heart Disease	91
Miscellaneous	74
Arrhythmias and Conduction Disturbances	71
Heart Failure	63
Cardiomyopathy	34
Preventative Cardiology	32
Congenital Heart Disease	28
Systemic Hypertension	8
Historical Studies	6
Interview	1

published in the AJC, in contrast to the limitations (usually 8) of most cardiology journals. As a consequence, the AJC publishes more figures and tables than other major cardiovascular journals. The average length of the text of articles published in the AJC is almost certainly less than in other cardiology journals. The publisher of the AJC in 2018 provided a total of 3,891 editorial pages, of which 3735 (96%) were used for publishing articles and 42 for publishing Readers' Comments. Total circulation of the AJC in 2018, according to the publisher, was just over 23,000.

My presentation was followed by a superb presentation by Ms. Heather Luciano, Publisher, Health and Medical Sciences, Elsevier. She discussed multiple topics: the region and country from which manuscripts were submitted and accepted in the AJC in 2018; the average editorial speed for accepted and rejected manuscripts submitted to the AJC in 2018, (4.8 to 5.2 weeks from submission to first decision after review); the Impact Factor in 2017, the latest year available and she compared this number for the AJC to other major cardiovascular journals; the CiteScore of the AJC and compared it to other cardiovascular journals in 2018; the most cited articles published in the AJC all-time, including those in 2018; the full-text usage in 2018 by ScienceDirect, [AJConline.org](http://AJConline.org), and Clinical Key (The 2018 total from all platforms was 1,300,322); the most downloaded articles from ScienceDirect in 2018, and the top 10 countries using ScienceDirect in 2018.

In September 2018, Elsevier closed its acquisition of Aries Systems, a leader in scientific publication workflow solutions. Aries owns a best-in-class manuscript submission and peer review platform, called Editorial Manager. Over the next few weeks, Elsevier will finalize its planning on how to use the editorial manager platform and its capabilities to best support Elsevier's journal portfolio. Aries' strength in the provision of publication workflow system, together with Elsevier's strength in information analytics, will enable the publisher to continue to innovate the publishing process to improve the experience of both authors and the editors. We are looking forward to this new platform in the AJC.

Ms. Luciano's presentation was followed by a superb dinner sponsored by Elsevier.

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