

## Editorial

# The AALAS Journals: 2013 in Review

Linda A Toth, Susan R Compton, Ravi J Tolwani, and Melissa H Bagaglio

The November issue of *JAALAS* volume 52 and the December issue of *Comparative Medicine (CM)* volume 63 mark the end of another year for the AALAS journals. Our sincere thanks go again to the talented support the journals receive from art direc-

tor Amy Tippet and scientific editor Amy Frazier, as well as to the AALAS staff, Melissa Bagaglio and John Farrar. This team together continues to sustain a timely flow of well-edited and professionally presented information through the entire process

**Table 1.** Journal statistics

<i>JAALAS</i>	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total submissions	68	119	132	172	167	191	170	179
International	24	31	52	61	52	71	57	74
% international	35	26	39	35	31	37	34	41
Disposition								
Referred to <i>CM</i>	3	4	11	15	18	31	16	17
Withdrawn	3	7	6	4	8	5	5	3
Rejected	24	37	35	41	43	55	64	75
Accepted	41	61	73	93	91	90	75	80
Total accepted or rejected*	65	98	108	134	134	145	139	155
% accepted	63	62	68	69	68	62	54	52
Time from submission to								
first decision (days)	28	32	28	28	28	28	28	28
acceptance (days)	50	55	66	64	62	62	50	56
Articles published**	62	65	62	68	90	96	79	71
Pages published, articles	812	756	732	840	916	993	872	810
Average pages per article	6.9	6.3	5.7	5.9	5.8	6.4	6.8	11.4
Impact factor		0.52	0.53	0.95	0.80	0.71	1.14	NA
<i>CM</i>	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total submissions	83	136	126	158	138	162	171	169
International	35	42	50	86	55	73	76	89
% international	42	31	40	54	40	45	44	53
Disposition								
Referred to <i>JAALAS</i>	18	27	24	39	36	31	29	23
Withdrawn	1	7	8	6	6	4	3	6
Rejected	20	34	37	51	35	54	75	69
Accepted	44	57	56	47	61	57	64	63
Total accepted or rejected*	64	91	93	98	96	111	139	132
% accepted	69	63	60	48	64	51	46	48
Time from submission to								
first decision (days)	49	40	32	28	28	28	24	24
acceptance (days)	95	66	62	53	61	53	46	42
Articles published**	45	63	63	59	55	60	68	60
Pages published, articles	452	614	623	613	520	576	568	547
Average pages per article	7	7.2	7.4	7.7	6.9	7.0	6.7	9.1
Impact factor	0.99	1.15	1.09	1.09	1.20	1.05	1.12	NA

\*, some articles submitted in 2013 are still under review

\*\* , some of the articles published in 2013 were accepted in 2012

NA, not available

**Table 2.** Author survey results

	JAALAS*	CM*
Is this journal routinely your first choice for publication?	Yes: 49% (53 of 109)	Yes: 35% (20 of 57)
Was this your first publication?	Yes: 32% (35 of 109)	Yes: 33% (19 of 57)
Why did you select to publish in this journal (top 2)?	Distribution to appropriate audience; subject coverage of the journal	Distribution to appropriate audience; subject coverage of the journal
Characteristics rated as high or very high for this journal (top 2)	Relevance of the content to your field, impact of the journal on your field	Relevance of the content to your field, impact of the journal on your field
Characteristics rated as low or very low for this journal (lowest 2)	Speed of publication; editorial assistance	Speed of publication; editorial assistance
Would you submit your work to this journal again?	Yes: 92% (100 of 109)	Yes: 91% (52 of 57)
Submission-to-acceptance interval: very or somewhat satisfied	Yes: 96% (102 of 106)	Yes: 93% (51 of 55)
Acceptance-to-publication interval: very or somewhat satisfied	Yes: 87% (84 of 97)	Yes: 89% (44 of 51)
Reviewers are fair, objective, prompt, helpful, competent, reasonable: agree or strongly agree	Yes: 96% (484 of 503)	Yes: 99% (265 of 267)

\*Total numbers of responses vary because some respondents did not answer all questions.

**Table 3.** Top 10 Downloaded Articles from PubMed Central in *Comparative Medicine* in 2013

Article	Live in PMC	Total Requests	
		2012	2013
<b>Novak MA, Meyer JS.</b> 2009. Alopecia: possible causes and treatments, particularly in captive nonhuman primates. <i>Comp Med</i> 59:18–26.	8/1/2009	7936	14808
<b>Graham ML, Janecek JL, Kittredge JA, Hering BJ, Schuurman HJ.</b> 2011. The streptozotocin-induced diabetic nude mouse model: differences between animals from different sources. <i>Comp Med</i> 61:356–360.	2/1/2012	1913	6785
<b>Lelovas PP, Xanthos TT, Thoma SE, Lyritis GP, Dontas IA.</b> 2008. The laboratory rat as an animal model for osteoporosis research. <i>Comp Med</i> 58:424–430.	7/17/2009	3286	4598
<b>Cray C, Zaias J, Altman NH.</b> 2009. Acute phase response in animals: a review. <i>Comp Med</i> 59:517–526.	6/1/2010	2896	4445
<b>Lynch WJ, Nicholson KL, Dance ME, Morgan RW, Foley PL.</b> 2010. Animal models of substance abuse and addiction: implications for science, animal welfare, and society. <i>Comp Med</i> 60:177–188.	12/1/2010	1785	3512
<b>Nemzek JA, Hugunin KM, Opp MR.</b> 2008. Modeling sepsis in the laboratory: merging sound science with animal well-being. <i>Comp Med</i> 58:120–128.	7/17/2009	**	3075
<b>Casals JB, Pieri NC, Feitosa ML, Ercolin AC, Roballo KC, Barreto RS, Bressan FF, Martins DS, Miglino MA, Ambrósio CE.</b> 2011. The use of animal models for stroke research: a review. <i>Comp Med</i> 61:305–313.	2/1/2012	1906	2993
<b>Elmore D, Eberle R.</b> 2008. Monkey B virus ( <i>Cercopithecine herpesvirus 1</i> ). <i>Comp Med</i> 58:11–21.	7/17/2009	2082	2926
<b>Padilla-Carlin DJ, McMurray DN, Hickey AJ.</b> 2008. The guinea pig as a model of infectious diseases. <i>Comp Med</i> 58:324–340.	7/17/2009	1869	2863
<b>Bagi CM, Berryman E, Moalli MR.</b> 2011. Comparative bone anatomy of commonly used laboratory animals: implications for drug discovery. <i>Comp Med</i> 61:76–85.	8/1/2011	1349	1831

\*\* New to top 10 list

from manuscript submission to publication.

As shown in Table 1, publication statistics for the journals remain strong, with numbers for most measures remaining essentially unchanged since last year. Notably, the percentage of articles submitted from international (nonUS) institutions and authors increased for both journals. Both journals have acceptance rates of about 50%. As was stated in last year's report, these percentages are consistent with obtaining an adequate amount of high-quality content for each issue. Our expectation is that the number of submissions will likely increase with time, which will result in a lower acceptance rate. Prospective authors should be aware that as more submissions are received, standards for ac-

ceptance will be higher. For example, manuscripts that contain relatively little data (only one table or figure) will be viewed as less desirable than articles that present a substantive and comprehensive investigation of a research question.

This year we conducted a survey of authors. Surveys were sent to corresponding authors of all articles published in the journals during the past two years. Responses are summarized in Table 2 and indicate an overall high level of satisfaction with the journals. We received a total of 128 responses from JAALAS authors and 65 responses from CM authors. Responses were extremely similar for the two journals with regard to essentially all factors surveyed. The greatest difference was in terms of the proportion of respon-

**Table 4.** Top 10 Downloaded Articles from PubMed Central in *Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science* in 2013

Article	Live in PMC	Total Requests	
		2012	2013
<b>Turner PV, Brabb T, Pekow C, Vasbinder MA.</b> 2011. Administration of substances to laboratory animals: routes of administration and factors to consider. <i>JAALAS</i> 50:600–613.	3/1/2012	6650	22624
<b>Duran-Struock R, Dysko RC.</b> 2009. Principles of bone marrow transplantation (BMT): providing optimal veterinary and husbandry care to irradiated mice in BMT studies. <i>JAALAS</i> 48:11–22.	7/1/2009	7570	10623
<b>Turner PV, Pekow C, Vasbinder MA, Brabb T.</b> 2011. Administration of substances to laboratory animals: equipment considerations, vehicle selection, and solute preparation. <i>JAALAS</i> 50:614–627.	3/1/2012	**	5533
<b>McKeon GP, Pacharinsak C, Long CT, Howard AM, Jampachaisri K, Yeomans DC, Felt SA.</b> 2011. Analgesic effects of tramadol, tramadol-gabapentin, and buprenorphine in an incisional model of pain in rats ( <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> ). <i>JAALAS</i> 50:192–197.	9/1/2011	2882	4360
<b>Cray C, Rodriguez M, Zaias J, Altman NH.</b> 2009. Effects of storage temperature and time on clinical biochemical parameters from rat serum. <i>JAALAS</i> 48:202–204.	9/1/2009	2631	4275
<b>Vento PJ, Swartz ME, Martin LBE, Derek D.</b> 2008. Food intake in laboratory rats provided standard and fenbendazole-supplemented diets. <i>JAALAS</i> 47:46–50.	6/12/2009	2280	4253
<b>Luo C, Zuniga J, Edison E, Palla S, Dong W, Parker-Thornburg J.</b> 2011. Superovulation strategies for 6 commonly used mouse strains. <i>JAALAS</i> 50:471–478.	1/1/2012	**	3861
<b>Zaias J, Mineau M, Cray C, Yoon D, Altman NH.</b> 2009. Reference values for serum proteins of common laboratory rodent strains. <i>JAALAS</i> 48:387–390.	1/1/2010	**	3852
<b>Alworth LC, Hernandez SM, Divers SJ.</b> 2011. Laboratory reptile surgery: principles and techniques. <i>JAALAS</i> 50:11–26.	7/1/2011	2851	3787
<b>Fernandez I, Pena A, Del Teso N, Perez V, Rodriguez-Cuesta J.</b> 2010. Clinical biochemistry parameters in C57BL/6J mice after blood collection from the submandibular vein and retroorbital plexus. <i>JAALAS</i> 49:202–206.	9/1/2010	3001	3774

\*\* New to top 10 list

**Table 5.** Top 10 cited articles in *Comparative Medicine*\*

Article	Publication year	Total number of citations as of	
		Feb. 18, 2013	Jan. 15, 2014
<b>Mansfield K.</b> Marmoset models commonly used in biomedical research. 53:383–392.	2003	76	94
<b>Lelovas PP, Xanthos TT, Thoma SE, Lyritis GP, Dontas IA.</b> The laboratory rat as an animal model for osteoporosis research. 58:424–430.	2008	**	86
<b>Abbott DH, Barnett DK, Colman RJ, Yamamoto ME, Schultz-Darken NJ.</b> Aspects of common marmoset basic biology and life history important for biomedical research. 53:339–350.	2003	62	79
<b>Dyson MC, Alloosh M, Vuchetich JP, Mokelke EA, Sturek M.</b> Components of metabolic syndrome and coronary artery disease in female Ossabaw swine fed excess atherogenic diet. 56:35–45.	2006	60	75
<b>Cray C, Zaias J, Altman NH.</b> Acute phase response in animals: a review. 59:517–526.	2009	**	73
<b>Parker JM, Mikaelian I, Hahn N, Diggs HE.</b> Clinical diagnosis and treatment of epidermal chytridiomycosis in African clawed frogs ( <i>Xenopus tropicalis</i> ). 52:265–268.	2002	59	67
<b>Garner JP, Weisker SM, Dufour B, Mench JA.</b> Barbering (fur and whisker trimming) by laboratory mice as a model of human trichotillomania and obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders. 54:216–224.	2004	54	64
<b>Hsu CC, Riley LK, Wills HM, Livingston RS.</b> Persistent infection with and serologic cross-reactivity of three novel murine noroviruses. 56:247–251.	2006	54	59
<b>Whary MT, Fox JG.</b> Natural and experimental <i>Helicobacter</i> infections. 54:128–158.	2004	50	58
<b>Arras M, Autenried P, Rettich A, Spaeni D, Rüllicke T.</b> Optimization of intraperitoneal injection anesthesia in mice: drugs, dosages, adverse effects, and anesthesia depth. 51:443–456.	2001	49	58

\*Data collected from Web of Knowledge

\*\* New to top 10 list

dents who view the journal as their first choice for publication. The higher ranking for *JAALAS* may reflect the more applied focus of *JAALAS* as compared with the more diverse topics published in *CM*. The question about “cost to publish” in comparison with other journals was likely ambiguous, as the *AALAS* journals do

not have publication charges. Therefore, answers of “very high or high” (40 of 57 responses) versus “very low or low” (7 of 40 responses) may have been confounded. We will rephrase this question in future surveys. When asked whether lack of publication costs influenced selection of the journal for publication

**Table 6.** Top 10 cited articles in *Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science*\*

Article	Publication year	Total number of citations as of	
		Feb. 18, 2013	Jan. 15, 2014
<b>Portfors CV.</b> Types and functions of ultrasonic vocalizations in laboratory rats and mice. <b>46:28–34.</b>	2007	76	101
<b>Perdue KA, Green KY, Copeland M, Barron E, Mandel M, Faucette LJ, Williams EM, Sosnovtsev SV, Elkins WR, Ward JM.</b> Naturally occurring murine norovirus infection in a large research institution. <b>46:39–45.</b>	2007	21	24
<b>Hayward R, Hydock DS.</b> Doxorubicin cardiotoxicity in the rat: an in vivo characterization. <b>46:20–32.</b>	2007	15	22
<b>Kastenmayer RJ, Fain MA, Perdue KA.</b> A retrospective study of idiopathic ulcerative dermatitis in mice with a C57BL/6 background. <b>45:8–12.</b>	2006	18	21
<b>Probst RJ, Lim JM, Bird DN, Pole GL, Sato AK, Claybaugh JR.</b> Gender differences in the blood volume of conscious Sprague–Dawley rats. <b>45:49–52</b>	2006	14	21
<b>Wilson JM, Bunte RM, Carty AJ.</b> Evaluation of rapid cooling and tricainemethanesulfonate (MS222) as methods of euthanasia in zebrafish ( <i>Danio rerio</i> ). <b>48:785–789.</b>	2009	**	20
<b>Coleman K, Pranger L, Maier A, Lambeth SP, Perlman JE, Thiele E, Schapiro SJ.</b> Training rhesus macaques for venipuncture using positive reinforcement techniques: a comparison with chimpanzees. <b>47:37–41.</b>	2008	**	20
<b>ACLAM Task Force Members, Kohn DE, Martin TE, Foley PL, Morris TH, Swindle MM, Vogler GA, Wixson SK.</b> Public statement: guidelines for the assessment and management of pain in rodents and rabbits. <b>46:97–108.</b>	2007	15	19
<b>Konkle AT, Kentner AC, Baker SL, Stewart A, Bielajew C.</b> Environmental-enrichment-related variations in behavioral, biochemical, and physiologic responses of Sprague–Dawley and Long Evans rats. <b>49:427–436.</b>	2010	**	18
<b>Abatan OI, Welch KB, Nemzek JA.</b> Evaluation of saphenous venipuncture and modified tail-clip blood collection in mice. <b>47:8–15.</b>	2008	17	18

\*Data collected from Web of Knowledge

\*\* New to top 10 list

of their work, 70% (37 of 53) ranked this feature as very high or high, whereas 11% (6 of 53) ranked this feature as low or very low.

In the survey, several authors commented about delays in making articles available as “Epub ahead of print.” Full implementation of this feature has been slow because of our backlog of accepted articles. Articles are currently being edited about 4 months after acceptance. Although we are now processing extra articles every month, it will take time to reach the point at which articles are edited as they are accepted. With regard to abstracts, once articles are published, we send the final pdfs to Ingenta, where they are posted on our website. From the package we send, Ingenta then forwards the abstracts to PubMed. Last year this was not occurring in a timely fashion because of an unrecognized problem with the system. According to Ingenta, this problem has now been resolved and abstracts should be available in PubMed a few weeks after becoming available on the AALAS website.

The tables of top 10 downloaded articles for the two journals really emphasize the value of the AALAS publications (Tables 3 and 4). As you can see, many articles are downloaded thousands

of time a year for many years after the publication date. These data show that even though the journal impact factors are not high, the articles are used by the community we serve and are durable in terms of content. The list of top 10 cited articles has several new additions this year (Tables 5 and 6). Note that all of the top-cited articles for *CM* were published prior to 2010. Naturally, more citations are likely to accrue with a longer time since publication, but the higher numbers of citations in 2012 compared with 2013 indicates that these articles continue to be relevant. Overall citation numbers are lower for *JAALAS*, but a contributing factor to this difference from *CM* was the change of name from *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Medicine* to *JAALAS* in 2005. As the life span of *JAALAS* increases, citation numbers will likely approach those of *CM* in the future.

As always, we welcome your suggestions for improvements in the journals and encourage you to give us your opinions, perspective, concerns and suggestions. You have our continued thanks for your support in the development and growth of the journals.