

Editorial

The AALAS Journals: 2010 in Review

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The November issue of *JAALAS* volume 49 and the December issue of *Comparative Medicine* volume 60 bring to an end the fifth full year of reorganization of the AALAS journals. Our sincere thanks go to the talented support we receive from art director Amy Tippett and scientific editor Amy Frazier, as well as to the AALAS staff, Melissa Bagaglio and John Farrar. This team together maintains a sustained and timely flow of well-edited and professionally-presented information through the entire process from manuscript submission to publication.

Perhaps the most rewarding change in journal statistics

during the past year has been the increased impact factor for *JAALAS*. Because the journal name was changed 5 y ago, this increase probably reflects at least in part the greater amount of past content available for citation under the name *JAALAS*. The impact factor for *CM* has remained stable. The 2 journals are similar in terms of the time required for review of submitted manuscripts, which require 4 wk on average from submission to the first decision, and an additional month for final acceptance of manuscripts with satisfactory revisions (Table 1).

Although our target number of articles published per issue re-

Table 1. Journal statistics

<i>JAALAS</i>	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total submissions	65	62	82	62	60	98	68	119	132	172	167
International	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	31	52	61	52
% international	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	26	39	35	31
Disposition											
Referred to CM	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	11	15	18
Rejected	6	5	7	4	8	26	24	37	35	41	43
Withdrawn	1	2	0	3	3	10	3	7	6	4	8
Accepted	58	55	75	55	49	62	41	61	73	93	91
Total accepted or rejected in 2010 *	64	60	82	59	57	88	65	98	108	134	134
% accepted	91	92	91	93	86	70	63	62	68	69	68
Time from submission to											
first decision (days)	35	34	32	34	32	34	28	32	28	28	28
acceptance (days)	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	55	66	64	62
Articles published **	53	60	61	68	44	63	62	65	62	68	90
Pages published	-	-	-	-	-	-	812	756	732	840	916
Impact factor								0.52	0.53	0.95	
<i>CM</i>	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total submissions	121	117	110	115	99	104	83	136	126	158	138
International	41	45	17	37	28	39	35	42	50	86	55
% international	34	38	15	32	28	38	42	31	40	54	40
Disposition											
Referred to <i>JAALAS</i>	14	10	7	9	5	29	18	27	24	39	36
Rejected	31	15	16	14	16	18	20	34	37	51	35
Withdrawn	1	10	5	6	12	4	1	7	8	6	6
Accepted	75	82	82	86	66	53	44	57	56	47	61
Total accepted or rejected in 2010 *	106	97	98	100	82	71	64	91	93	98	96
% accepted	71	85	84	86	81	75	69	63	60	48	64
Time from submission to											
first decision (days)	-	28	28	28	28	40	49	40	32	28	28
acceptance (days)	-	95	99	101	108	78	95	66	62	53	61
Articles published **	91	63	60	77	76	62	45	63	63	59	55
Pages published	704	488	601	696	744	560	452	614	623	613	520
Impact factor						1.08	0.99	1.15	1.09	1.09	

*, some articles submitted in 2010 are still under review

** , some of the articles published in 2010 were accepted in 2009

Table 2. Species focus and types of articles published in 2009

JAALAS	Species	Number			Types of articles	Number		
		2008	2009	2010		2008	2009	2010
	Mice	25	18	27	Biology	32	38	13
	NHP	13	10	21	Management	11	3	6
	Rats	11	14	11	Experimental techniques	7	14	27
	Rabbits	3	4	3	Health surveillance			8
	Swine	0	3	2	Reproduction			7
	Aquatic	4	4	4	Husbandry			7
	Other	5	13	14"	Overview (other)	0	3	3
	None	0	3	7	Case reports	11	11	18
Totals		61	69	89		61	69	89

*, 2 articles each on dogs, birds, and multiple species, and 4 each on miscellaneous rodents and miscellaneous other mammals

CM	Species	Number			Types of articles	Number		
		2008	2009	2010		2008	2009	2010
	Mice	19	21	14	Overviews	13	5	2
	NHP	16	9	11	Original research	46	50	53
	Rats	7	9	10	Case studies	4	4	0
	Rabbits	5	4	2				
	Swine	5	4	5				
	Aquatic	0	1	4				
	Other	9	11	6**				
	None	0	0	2				
Totals		63	59	55		63	59	55

** , 1 article each on ferrets, chickens, chinchillas, and guinea pigs, and 2 articles on ruminants

mains at 10, *CM* fell slightly below this target, whereas *JAALAS* far exceeded it, reflecting a high number of quality submissions for *JAALAS* and a drop in overall submissions to *CM* in 2010. In 2010, approximately 30% and 40% of the articles submitted to *JAALAS* and *CM*, respectively, came from authors and institutions outside the US, representing 26 countries for *JAALAS* and 22 for *CM*. Thus, both the number and percentage of foreign submissions fell in 2010 in comparison with 2009. The overall acceptance rates are now approximately 68% for *JAALAS* and 64% for *CM* (Table 1). We continue to anticipate that over time, rising standards of acceptability for publication and the more focused scope of each journal will lead to increase the appeal of the journals to scientists, with a resultant increase in the numbers of quality submissions, and will promote a significant increase in impact factors in the near future.

In 2010, *CM* contained fewer articles on mice and more on aquatic species as compared with previous years. In *JAALAS*, 2010 saw more articles published on nonhuman primates, as well as more articles that were not species-focused (Table 2). The latter reflects a growing number of submissions dealing with issues such as human resources and facility management. Specific topics that were heavily represented in *JAALAS*, based on evaluation of the topic index in the last issue of 2010, were infection, bacteria, reproduction, and substance administration. In *CM*, the most published topics were infection, bacteria, viruses, genetics, and surgery. Thus, in 2010, both journals showed a high prevalence for publication of high-quality articles related to infectious diseases of animals and animal models of human

Table 3. Most heavily represented topics

	2008	2009	2010
JAALAS	Anesthesia	Anesthesia	Infection
	Enrichment	Enrichment	Bacteria
	Noroviruses	Environment	Reproduction
	Fenbendazole	Euthanasia	Drug administration
	Corticosterone		Anesthesia Parasites Surgery
CM	Cancer	Cancer	Infection
	Infectious diseases	Herpesviruses	Bacteria
		Obesity	Viruses
			Surgery
			Genetics

infectious diseases (Table 3).

As always, we welcome your suggestions for improvements in the journals. We continue to seek special focus issues for both journals and invite anyone interested in volunteering to serve as a guest editor for a specific special topic issue of either journal to contact me to discuss the idea. Plans for 2011 include a readership survey. We encourage you to respond with your opinions, perspective, concerns and suggestions. You have our continued thanks for your support in the development and growth of the journals.