

Editorial

The AALAS Journals: 2014 in Review

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The November issue of *JAALAS* volume 53 and the December issue of *Comparative Medicine (CM)* volume 64 marked the end of another year for the AALAS journals. Our sincere thanks go again to the talented support the journals receive from art director Amy Tippett and scientific editor Amy Frazier, as well as to the AALAS staff—John Farrar, Virginia Dawson, and,

previously, Melissa Bagaglio. This team together continues to sustain a timely flow of well-edited and professionally presented information through the entire process from manuscript submission to publication.

As shown in Table 1, publication statistics for the journals remain strong, although notably the number of submissions fell

Table 1. Journal statistics

<i>JAALAS</i>	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total submissions	68	119	132	172	167	191	170	179	158
International	24	31	52	61	52	71	57	74	75
% international	35	26	39	35	31	37	34	41	59
Disposition of submissions									
Referred to CM	3	4	11	15	18	31	16	17	25
Withdrawn	3	7	6	4	8	5	5	3	4
Rejected	24	37	35	41	43	55	64	75	62
Accepted	41	61	73	93	91	90	75	80	91
Total number accepted or rejected*	65	98	108	134	134	145	139	155	153
% accepted	63	62	68	69	68	62	54	52	59
Days from submission to									
first decision	28	32	28	28	28	28	28	28	32
final decision	50	55	66	64	62	62	50	56	75
Articles published**	62	65	62	68	90	96	79	71	88
Pages published, articles	812	756	732	840	916	993	872	810	727
Average pages per article	6.9	6.3	5.7	5.9	5.8	6.4	6.8	11.4	8.3
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	2014
Total submissions	83	136	126	158	138	162	171	169	135
International	35	42	50	86	55	73	76	89	80
% international	42	31	40	54	40	45	44	53	59
Disposition of submissions									
Referred to <i>JAALAS</i>	18	27	24	39	36	31	29	23	12
Withdrawn	1	7	8	6	6	4	3	6	1
Rejected	20	34	37	51	35	54	75	69	75
Accepted	44	57	56	47	61	57	64	63	45
Total number accepted or rejected*	64	91	93	98	96	111	139	132	120
% accepted	69	63	60	48	64	51	46	48	38
Days from submission to									
first decision	49	40	32	28	28	28	24	24	28
final decision	95	66	62	53	61	53	46	42	45
Articles published**	45	63	63	59	55	60	68	60	58
Pages published, articles	452	614	623	613	520	576	568	547	436
Average pages per article	7	7.2	7.4	7.7	6.9	7.0	6.7	9.1	7.5
Impact factor	0.99	1.15	1.09	1.09	1.20	1.05	1.12	***	NA

*, some articles submitted in 2014 are still under review

** , some of the articles published in 2014 were accepted in 2013

***, due to an error, impact factors for 2013 were calculated based on only 3 issues, rather than 6, for each journal. As a result, impact factors reported for *JAALAS* and *CM* for 2013 were not accurate (reported as 0.73 and 0.76 for *JAALAS* and *CM* respectively). Doubling the reported values in an attempt to correct for the missing issues would give respective values of 1.46 and 1.52 for *JAALAS* and *CM*, which would be a substantial improvement over 2012. However, it is impossible to know how accurate that correction might be.

NA, not yet available

Table 2. Top 10 Downloaded Articles from PubMed Central in *Comparative Medicine* in 2014

Article	Live in PMC	Total Requests		
		2012	2013	2014
Novak MA, Meyer JS. Alopecia: possible causes and treatments, particularly in captive nonhuman primates. <i>59</i> :18–26, 2009.	8/1/2009	7936	14808	18992
Graham ML, Janecek JL, Kittredge JA, Hering BJ, Schuurman HJ. The streptozotocin-induced diabetic nude mouse model: differences between animals from different sources. <i>61</i> :356–360, 2011.	2/1/2012	1913	6785	5203
Cray C, Zaias J, Altman NH. Acute phase response in animals: a review. <i>59</i> :517–526, 2009.	6/1/2010	2896	4445	4467
Lynch WJ, Nicholson KL, Dance ME, Morgan RW, Foley PL. Animal models of substance abuse and addiction: implications for science, animal welfare, and society. <i>60</i> :177–188, 2010.	12/1/2010	1785	3512	4039
Lelovas PP, Xanthos TT, Thoma SE, Lyritis GP, Dontas IA. The laboratory rat as an animal model for osteoporosis research. <i>58</i> :424–430, 2008	7/17/2009	3286	4598	2960
Casals JB, Pieri NC, Feitosa ML, Ercolin AC, Roballo KC, Barreto RS, Bressan FF, Martins DS, Miglino MA, Ambrósio CE. The use of animal models for stroke research: a review. <i>61</i> :305–313, 2011	2/1/2012	1906	2993	2932
Nemzek JA, Hugunin KM, Opp MR. Modeling sepsis in the laboratory: merging sound science with animal well-being. <i>58</i> :120–128, 2008	7/17/2009	**	3075	2530
Padilla-Carlin DJ, McMurray DN, Hickey AJ. The guinea pig as a model of infectious diseases. <i>58</i> :324–340, 2008	7/17/2009	1869	2863	2490
Elmore D, Eberle R. Monkey b virus (<i>Cercopithecineherpesvirus 1</i>). <i>58</i> :11–21, 2008	7/17/2009	2082	2926	2302
Tartarov I, Panda A, Petkov D, Kolappaswamy K, Thompson K, Kavirayani A, Lipsky MM, Davis, CC, Martin DS, DeTolla LJ. Effect of magnetic fields on tumor growth and viability. <i>61</i> :339–345, 2012	2/1/2012	**	**	2107

**New to top ten list

Table 3. Top 10 Downloaded Articles from PubMed Central in *Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science* in 2014

Article	Live in PMC	Total Requests		
		2012	2013	2014
Turner PV, Brabb T, Pekow C, Vasbinder MA. Administration of substances to laboratory animals: routes of administration and factors to consider. <i>50</i> :600–613, 2011	3/1/2012	6650	22624	21404
Duran-Struuck R, Dysko RC. Principles of bone marrow transplantation (BMT): providing optimal veterinary and husbandry care to irradiated mice in BMT studies. <i>48</i> :11–22, 2009	7/1/2009	7570	10623	8328
Turner PV, Pekow C, Vasbinder MA, Brabb T. Administration of substances to laboratory animals: equipment considerations, vehicle selection, and solute preparation. <i>50</i> :614–627, 2011	3/1/2012	**	5533	8262
Turner DE, Daugherty EK, Altier C, Maurer KJ. Efficacy and limitations of an ATP-based monitoring system. <i>49</i> :190–195	9/4/2010	**	**	4112
Cray C, Rodriguez M, Zaias J, Altman NH. Effects of storage temperature and time on clinical biochemical parameters from rat serum. <i>48</i> :202–204, 2009	9/1/2009	2631	4275	3822
Fernandez I, Pena A, Del Teso N, Perez V, Rodriguez-Cuesta J. Clinical biochemistry parameters in C57BL/6J mice after blood collection from the submandibular vein and retroorbital plexus. <i>49</i> :202–206, 2010	9/1/2010	3001	3774	3109
Luo C, Zuniga J, Edison E, Palla S, Dong W, Parker-Thornburg J. Superovulation strategies for 6 commonly used mouse strains. <i>50</i> :471–478, 2011	1/1/2012	**	3861	3011
Alworth LC, Hernandez SM, Divers SJ. Laboratory reptile surgery: principles and techniques. <i>50</i> :11–26, 2011	7/1/2011	2851	3787	2948
Zaias J, Mineau M, Cray C, Yoon D, Altman NH. Reference values for serum proteins of common laboratory rodent strains. <i>48</i> :387–390, 2009	1/1/2010	**	3852	2490
Vento PJ, Swartz ME, Martin LBE, Derek D. Food intake in laboratory rats provided standard and fenbendazole-supplemented diets. <i>47</i> :46–50, 2008	6/12/2009	2280	4253	2452

** New to top ten list

for both journals. Determining whether this decrease foretells a trend must await future data. In 2014, the percentage of articles submitted from international (non-US) institutions and authors

was higher than in previous years for both journals. Acceptance rates fell to 38% for CM but rose to 59% for JAALAS. These percentages are consistent with obtaining an adequate amount of

Table 4. Top 10 cited articles in *Comparative Medicine**

Article	Publication year	Total number of citations as of		
		Feb. 18, 2013	Jan. 15, 2014	May 6, 2015
Cray C, Zaias J, Altman NH. Acute phase response in animals: a review. <i>59</i> :517–526.	2009	**	73	137
Lelovas PP, Xanthos TT, Thoma SE, Lyritis GP, Dontas IA. The laboratory rat as an animal model for osteoporosis research. <i>58</i> :424–430.	2008	**	86	134
Mansfield K. Marmoset models commonly used in biomedical research. <i>53</i> :383–392.	2003	76	94	122
Abbott DH, Barnett DK, Colman RJ, Yamamoto ME, Schultz-Darken NJ. Aspects of common marmoset basic biology and life history important for biomedical research. <i>53</i> :339–350.	2003	62	79	99
Dyson MC, Alloosh M, Vuchetich JP, Mokelke EA, Sturek M. Components of metabolic syndrome and coronary artery disease in female Ossabaw swine fed excess atherogenic diet. <i>56</i> :35–45.	2006	60	75	93
Callicott RJ, Womack JE. Real-time PCR for measurement of mouse telomeres. <i>56</i> :17–22	2006	**	**	74
Hsu CC, Riley LK, Wills HM, Livingston RS. Persistent infection with and serologic cross-reactivity of three novel murine noroviruses. <i>56</i> :247–251.	2006	54	59	73
Parker JM, Mikaelian I, Hahn N, Diggs HE. Clinical diagnosis and treatment of epidermal chytridiomycosis in African clawed frogs (<i>Xenopus tropicalis</i>). <i>52</i> :265–268.	2002	59	67	71
Garner JP, Weisker SM, Dufour B, Mench JA. Barbering (fur and whisker trimming) by laboratory mice as a model of human trichotillomania and obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders. <i>54</i> :216–224.	2004	54	64	70
Arras M, Autenried P, Rettich A, Spaeni D, Rülcke T. Optimization of intraperitoneal injection anesthesia in mice: drugs, dosages, adverse effects, and anesthesia depth. <i>51</i> :443–456.	2001	49	58	67

*Data collected from Web of Knowledge

** New to top 10 list

Table 5. 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	May 6, 2015
Portfors CV. Types and functions of ultrasonic vocalizations in laboratory rats and mice. <i>46</i> :28–34.	2007	76	101	138
Wilson JM, Bunte RM, Carty AJ. Evaluation of rapid cooling and tricainemethanesulfonate (MS222) as methods of euthanasia in zebrafish (<i>Danio rerio</i>). <i>48</i> :785–789.	2009	**	20	34
Hess Se, Rohr S, Dufour BD, Gaskill BN, Pajor EA, Garner JP. Home improvement: C57BL/6J mice given more naturalistic nesting materials build better nests. <i>47</i> :25–31	2008	**	**	32
Hayward R, Hydock DS. Doxorubicin cardiotoxicity in the rat: an in vivo characterization. <i>46</i> :20–32.	2007	15	22	32
Perdue KA, Green KY, Copeland M, Barron E, Mandel M, Faucette LJ, Williams EM, Sosnovtsev SV, Elkins WR, Ward JM. Naturally occurring murine norovirus infection in a large research institution. <i>46</i> :39–45.	2007	21	24	31
Probst RJ, Lim JM, Bird DN, Pole GL, Sato AK, Claybaugh JR. Gender differences in the blood volume of conscious Sprague–Dawley rats. <i>45</i> :49–52	2006	14	21	30
Abatan OI, Welch KB, Nemzek JA. Evaluation of saphenous venipuncture and modified tail-clip blood collection in mice. <i>47</i> :8–15.	2008	17	18	29
Matsumiya LC, Sorge RE, Sotocinal SG, Tabaka JM, Wieskopf JS, Zaloum A, King OD, Mogil JS. Using the mouse grimace scale to reevaluate the efficacy of postoperative analgesics in laboratory mice. <i>51</i> : 42–49	2012	**	**	28
Konkle AT, Kentner AC, Baker SL, Stewart A, Bielajew C. Environmental-enrichment-related variations in behavioral, biochemical, and physiologic responses of Sprague–Dawley and Long Evans rats. <i>49</i> :427–436.	2010	**	18	28
Coleman K, Pranger L, Maier A, Lambeth SP, Perlman JE, Thiele E, Schapiro SJ. Training rhesus macaques for venipuncture using positive reinforcement techniques: a comparison with chimpanzees. <i>47</i> :37–41.	2008	**	20	27

*Data collected from Web of Knowledge

** New to top ten list

Table 6. Journals with greatest number of citations of and citations in AALAS journals in 2013

Rank	Cited Comp Med	Cited in Comp Med	Cited JAALAS	Cited in JAALAS
1	PLoS One	Blood	JAALAS	JAALAS
2	Comp Med	Comp Med	PLoS One	CTLAS
3	JAALAS	Lab Anim Sci	Appl Anim Behav	Lab Anim – UK
4	Exp Anim - Tokyo	Sleep	Comp Med	Lab Anim Sci
5	J Vet Med Sci.	Infect Immun	Lab Anim - UK	Physiol Behav
6	Lab Anim - UK	J Immunol	Exp Anim - Tokyo	Comp Med
7	Vet Pathol	J Neurosci	Lab Anim (NY)	Anesth Analges
8	Zoo Biol	JAVMA	Behav Brain Res	Env Health Perspect
9	Am J Primatol	J Appl Physiol	BMC Vet Res	Guide Care Use Lab Anim
10	Am J Vet Res	J Nutrition	Am J Primatol	JAVMA Toxicol Sci

high-quality content for each issue. Our expectation is that the number of submissions will increase in the future time, resulting in lower acceptance rates. Prospective authors should be aware that as more submissions are received, standards for acceptance 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.

Reflected in the top cited articles is the impact of the AALAS Grants for Laboratory Animal Science (GLAS) on furthering scientific knowledge in the field. Among the top downloaded articles from PubMed Central is the paper on superovulation strategies by Luo et al for research that was funded by a 2009 GLAS award to Jan Parker-Thornburg as the principal investigator and Charlie Luo and Juliana Zuniga as co-investigators. The GLAS program also made a 2012 award to Julia Zaias (principal investigator) and Carolyn Cray (co-investigator) for research on acute phase proteins as markers of mouse transport stress, an area of work related to their review paper (Cray et al) which was among those top cited in Comp Med and downloaded from PubMed Central.

Particularly notable for this year, although published in March 2015, is the special focus issue “Global 3Rs Efforts—Making Progress and Gaining Momentum,” guest edited by Leticia V.

Medina. We thank Leticia for the effort she put forth to produce this landmark issue, which will undoubtedly serve for years to come as a ready consolidated source of information on this important topic. This special issue probably contributed to the higher number of submissions and acceptance rate in 2014, as the content was comprised largely of extra solicited articles by established experts in the field. However, as with all published work, these articles were vetted through the standard peer review process. We invite all readers to suggest other topics for focus issues for either of the journals. The editors and staff will be happy to work with you to develop this type of invaluable contribution to the field.

The tables of top 10 downloaded articles for the two journals really highlight the value of the AALAS publications (Tables 2 and 3). As you can see, many articles are downloaded thousands of times 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 4 and 5).

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.