

EPILEPSIA – STATISTICS 2

Other statistics are important to journals and authors. These include:

- **Number of submitted manuscripts:** This has also massively increased. In 1971, about 50 manuscripts were submitted for publication, increasing to 150 in 1980, 319 in 1994, 532 in 1998 and just under 1,000 this year.
- **Rejection rate:** In its early years, most manuscripts submitted to the journal were published, and indeed many were specifically commissioned. Research effort though has increased and with it a culture of 'publish or perish'. Competition for editorial space has become intense. By 1986, 46% of manuscripts were rejected, and the journal in 2009 rejects between 75–80% of manuscripts submitted.
- **Publication lag time:** Another statistic of great importance to the health of the journal is the delay from acceptance of a manuscript to publication (publication lag time). In the pre-online days this was sometimes very long – up to 18 months at times in the 1960s and to 14 months in the mid-1990s. By 2002 it had fallen to 4.5 months and with online publication is now 25 days.
- **Impact factor:** This was the first of the metrics used to compare journals and still one of the most popular. The measure is derived from the number of citations made to the papers in the journals. Spurious as it is (depending on the area of research, the scope of the journal, number of reviews etc.) it has become an important influence on where authors send their papers. The impact factor of Epilepsia is currently 3.8, the highest of any specialist epilepsy journal.
- **Income:** The fourth series of Epilepsia has changed publishers on a number of occasions, and each time has benefited financially. It was not until 1989 that the income from its publication exceeded its costs, and since then it has become an important source of finance for the ILAE – bringing the parent organisation over \$1 million dollars a year in surplus since 2004.

