

Publications Council

Members

Chair

Jean Gotman (Canada)



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Members

Alexis Arzimanoglou (France), *Epileptic Disorders*
Salah Baz (Saudi Arabia), ILAE Eastern Mediterranean Region
Sándor Beniczky (Denmark), *Epileptic Disorders*
Ed Bertram (USA)
Ingmar Blümcke (Germany), Education Council
Diptanshu Das (India), Wikipedia Project
Aristea Galanopoulou (USA), *Epilepsia Open*
Marco Medina (Honduras), ILAE Latin American Region
Astrid Nehlig (France), *Epilepsia*
Emilio Perucca (Italy)
Emmanuel Olatunde Sanya (Nigeria), ILAE African Region
Mike Sperling (USA), *Epilepsia*
Dong Zhou (China), *Epilepsia Open*

The Council has a representation covering all ILAE regions. Members have various terms, such that many will continue past the change of the ILAE Executive Council in 2021. The chair is a non-voting member of the Executive Council.

Activities of the Publication Council

ILAE Reports

The reports of ILAE organizational entities that are considered for publication are first reviewed by the Publication Council, which makes a recommendation to the Executive Committee (EC) regarding the following points:

- If the report is of sufficient importance and quality to be published in an ILAE journal (Council does NOT review the report)
- The journal to which the report is to be submitted

The EC makes the final decision.

The Council reviewed 14 such papers during 2020.

Procedures for the Publication of ILAE reports

In the process of reviewing the ILAE reports mentioned above, the Council found that there were several problems, and it was decided that new procedures should be defined. A small workgroup was assembled to make an initial proposal, which was then submitted to the full Council for discussion. The Council agreed on a full proposal and this was adopted by the ILAE Executive Committee in January 2021. The main changes to the procedures are the following:

- Creation of a category of “Clinical Practice Guidelines”, largely under the jurisdiction of the Guidelines Task Force.
- Creation of a new category of “Educational papers”
- Change in the procedure for dealing with “ILAE Reports” such that planned reports should be first submitted to the Council, which will give advice to ILAE organizational entities on how to create a solid report, and approve the plan. When completed, the report will be submitted for publication to one of the ILAE journals.

Relationships with Wiley Inc

We have agreed to a trial of advertising on first page of pdf article downloaded from *Epilepsia*, to compensate for lost advertising revenue in print.

A new contract is being negotiated with Wiley Inc for the publication of *Epilepsia* and *Epilepsia Open* for the period 2022-2026 (the current contract ends at the end of 2021). Some members of the Council took part in the negotiations, which are still under way at the end of the year. The general context of academic publishing is changing rapidly, with a strong movement for free open-access publishing from large research funding organizations.

Journals

A new process was put in place such that the institutions of journal Editors in chief and Deputy Editors receive a compensation which is related to the quantity of journal submissions.

The ILAE is moving towards a model where there is one Editor in Chief and one Deputy Editor for each journal.

Cost of digital subscriptions

An effort was made to reduce the cost of journal subscriptions in countries with limited means. The following rates are effective in January 2021:

- \$0 for low and lower middle-income countries, as well as for higher middle-income countries with a GDP per capita lower than US\$8,000 (latter only for *Epilepsia*)
- \$35 for higher middle-income countries with GDP per capita higher than US\$8,000
- \$45 (*Epilepsia*) and \$60 (*Epileptic Disorders*) for high income countries
- An advertising campaign is undertaken to make these new rates known.

Epilepsia Highlights

- The Impact factor has been growing regularly, reaching 6.04, compared to 4.57 in 2014
- Submissions increased in 2020 by 32% after several years of stability. This not likely to be exclusively the result of the pandemic because the increase started in January
- The journal is gaining a reputation for being tougher; rejection rates continue an upward trend, currently at more than 75%
- The weight of clinical research compared to experimental research is increasing gradually
- Number of downloads continue to increase, at 2,58M in 2020 compared to 1,45M in 2015
- A new Associate Editor for review articles was named, to place more emphasis on review articles.

Epilepsia Open Highlights

- A. Galanopoulou became the only Editor in Chief and D. Zhou became Deputy Editor

- There is a steady increase in unsolicited submissions since 2016; a steady increase in direct submissions vs transfers continues
- A minority of transfer offers are accepted by the author (13-20%).
- The majority of articles are unsolicited (vs invited)
- Production time from accepted to early view increased from 2019, despite the initial improvement due to the change in the new journal format. This is partly due to COVID-19 pandemic and possibly due to staff changes in the Wiley publishing section.
- Basic/translational science article submissions are increased compared to the first years of the journal; clinical science is still the majority
- APC eligible articles are high at 79% so far in 2020: potential for revenue
- Steady increase in downloads with the majority being clinical articles
- The numbers of articles published annually are steady compared to 2019
- Reviewer engagement is a big concern; only about half accept: reviewers are overloaded
- Wiley has estimated an IF of 2.36 for 2019 if one had been available. Scimago lists *Epilepsia Open* at Q2 of Neurology journals with a tentative 2-year IF of 2.7.
- ESCI decision is still pending and MEDLINE applications has been submitted
- A new manuscript format is being launched for multicenter collaborative studies.
- Two special issues are planned

Epileptic Disorders Highlights

- A. Arzimanoglou became Editor in chief Emeritus. S. Beniczky became the only Editor in Chief and E-M. Yacubian became Deputy Editor.
- Wiley has increased institutional subscriptions for the journal allowing for a wider distribution.
- Europe continues as the region with greatest reach though reach in other regions is increasing.
- The number of pages published has doubled since 2017
- Time from acceptance to early view is higher than desired. An action plan has been developed and implemented with the publisher (JLE), and the first signs that it works are already showing up. Yet, this is going to be a longer process.
- ILAE papers are published open access at no cost to author (11 in 2019); up to this point JLE has been agreeable to this. APC raised to 900 EURO. All papers are open access after one year.
- Downloads on Wiley Online Library up 70% in 2019, a result of the increase in institutional subscriptions.
- Downloaded articles show that semiology related publications and the educational review papers (seminars in epileptology) are the hallmark of the journal.
- Educational review papers addressing the ILAE curriculum learning objectives (LOs): 10 published, 2 accepted, 3 in review.
- IF down to 1.28; IF is a secondary measure to downloads for this educational journal. A detailed assessment of the citations per paper showed that the high number of case reports is detrimental for the IF of the journal. Yet, these papers have educational value. From the last quarter of 2020, a new strategy has been implemented. Case reports that are unlikely to attract citations are published as “case vignettes”, without abstract and with up to 8 references. These papers will not be taken into account when calculating the IF of the journal.
- In the second half of 2020 we have intensified the social media campaign. The marked increase in the presence of the journal on social media is expected to increase the number of visits to the journal and the number of downloads, and, on the longer run, possibly the IF too.
- Submissions increased from about 220 in 2019 to 330 in 2020 – 50% increase

- At the same time, acceptance rate decreased slightly (51% to 48%), indicating increased quality of submissions (or something)
- Total page count increased from about 599 to 833 – 39% increase

Wikipedia Project

- D. Das is the new Editor in Chief and N. Yardi the new Deputy Editor
- A new infrastructure was created to define the project, its different components, learning resources, code of conduct and the different levels of involvement.
- 200 Wikipedia articles have been identified and listed in the Wikipedia Project work environment. Among these, 27 have been prioritized.
- Several articles are in the process of being updated
- The editors are contacting volunteers to form a community of writers and peer reviewers, particularly among members of ILAE Organizational Entities (Commissions, Task Forces...)
- Overall, the writing of Wikipedia entries has proven a lot more complex than originally envisaged when the project was started a few years ago.

Submitted by Jean Gotman