

Epilepsia Open

2021 Annual Report

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Aims

The aim of *Epilepsia Open* is to publish high quality articles through an open-access forum on all aspects of epilepsy research and clinical practice, including reviews, original research, opinions and commentaries, reports from regional and topic-specific ILAE commissions and task forces, brief communications and case reports. We aim to adhere to high quality standards of reporting and publishing, as well as minimize publication bias, through the publication of not

only studies with novel or positive findings but also negative, failure to confirm, or preliminary reports.

Mission

The stated mission of *Epilepsia Open* is “to make original epilepsy research on all aspects of epilepsy widely available through open access publication. More specifically, *Epilepsia Open* will fill a need in comprehensive epilepsy research by also including early, preliminary studies that may provide new directions for clinical and laboratory research as well as well performed negative and failure to confirm studies.”

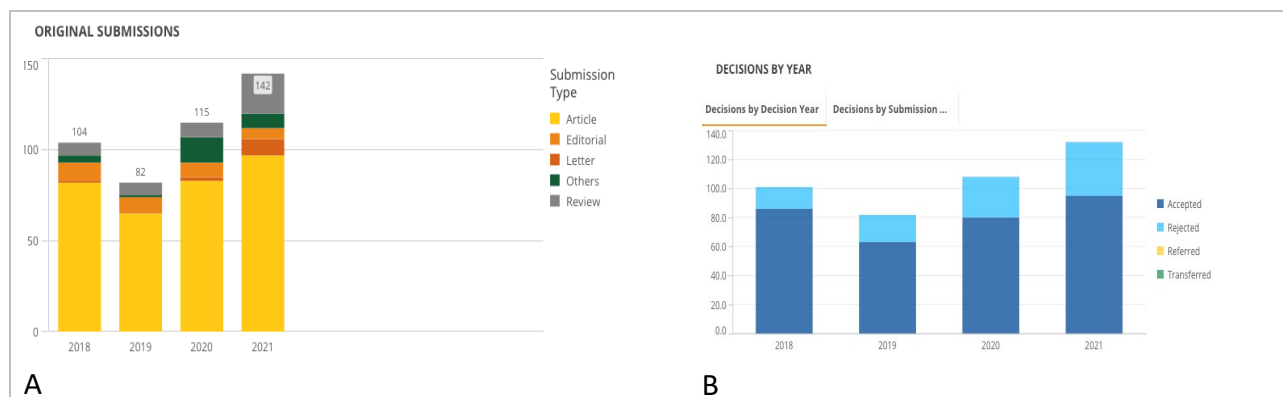
Activities

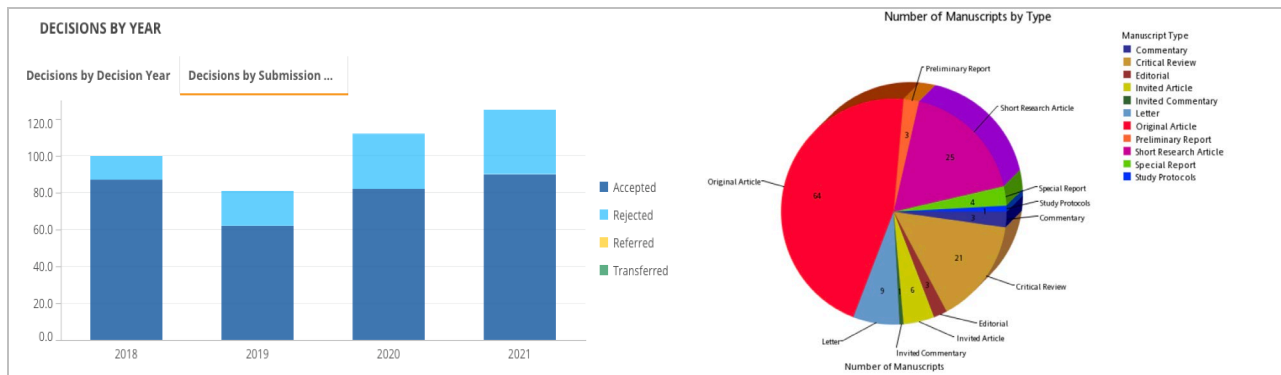
The Editors in Chief and Editorial Board, in collaboration with Wiley and the ILAE leadership where needed, have been convening via teleconferences to discuss the progress, strategies and action items and advance the quality and visibility of the journal. Face-to-face meetings have not been held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accomplishments

Marketing and increasing awareness of the journal: Wiley continued an extensive marketing strategy to regularly highlight the content of the journal’s issues and target both basic and clinical scientists and epilepsy professionals through regular newsletters. Selected articles from the journal’s issues are also highlighted in the ILAE website and in ILAE newsletters. Social media (Twitter, Facebook) have also been utilized to highlight published research.

Submissions: In 2021, *Epilepsia Open* received 142 original articles (23.5% increase compared to 2020), 65.5% of which are original research and 16.2% reviews (**Figure 1**). *Special reports, including ILAE reports, comprise 2.8% of submissions.*





C **Figure 1.** Submissions to *Epilepsia Open* by article type (A), decisions by decision year (B) or submission year (C), and distribution by article type (D) in 2021. The graphs in panels 1A-C are from Wiley Journals Insights and panel D is from the Scholarone reports.

Transfers. The majority of articles are direct submissions to *Epilepsia Open* and transfers from *Epilepsia* are ~ 23.9% of submissions. Among the articles offered transfer to *Epilepsia Open*, a higher percentage is now transferred to the journal (20.6%) compared to past years (14%), due to a decline in requests to transfer. Transferred articles currently encompass only the 23.9% of submitted material (**Figure 2**).

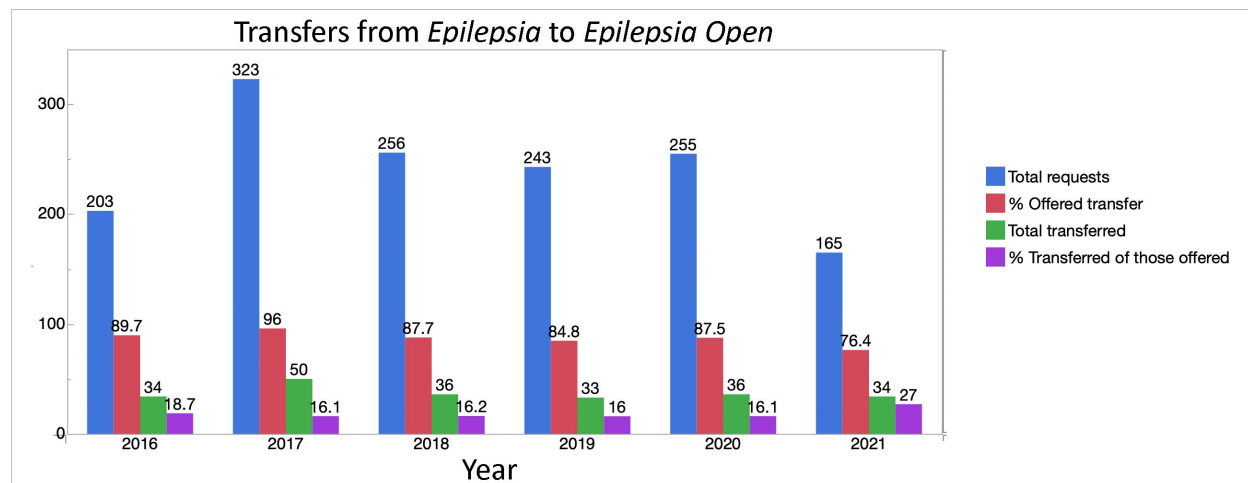


Figure 2. Transfers from *Epilepsia* to *Epilepsia Open*. The total number of manuscripts for which transfer has been requested has declined. Around 76.4% of requests have been offered possibility for transfer. The number of manuscripts that eventually were transferred to *Epilepsia Open* is stable (34 in 2021), resulting in an increase in the % of transfer offers that materialized.

Clinical vs basic science focus. The majority of submitted papers are clinical (69.1%). Articles with basic science or translational focus encompass the 30.9% of submissions. The percentage of basic / translational research articles is higher among those submitted directly (33.6%) than those transferred from *Epilepsia* (21.9%).

Peer review, publications: *Epilepsia Open* has engaged peer reviewers from a wide range of countries worldwide and particularly from the United States, Italy, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Canada, Australia, India, China and Mexico. The accept rate for new submissions in 2021 was 72%, ranging between 63.6% for original research and 81.8% for reviews and special reports.

Turnaround times (median) include:

- 47 days review duration of each stage of the peer review process (original or resubmission) (reduced from 77 days in 2020)
- 36 days to first decision (40 days in 2020)
- 80 days to final decision (112 days in 2020)
- 106 days to acceptance (only accepted articles included) (127 days in 2020).

A continuing challenge is to identify available expert reviewers to participate in the peer review process, as the acceptance rate of the invitations extended to reviewers are low (~50% of the invites) (**Figure 3**). We have created flags of younger to mid-career reviewers who are willing to participate in peer review to address this gap.

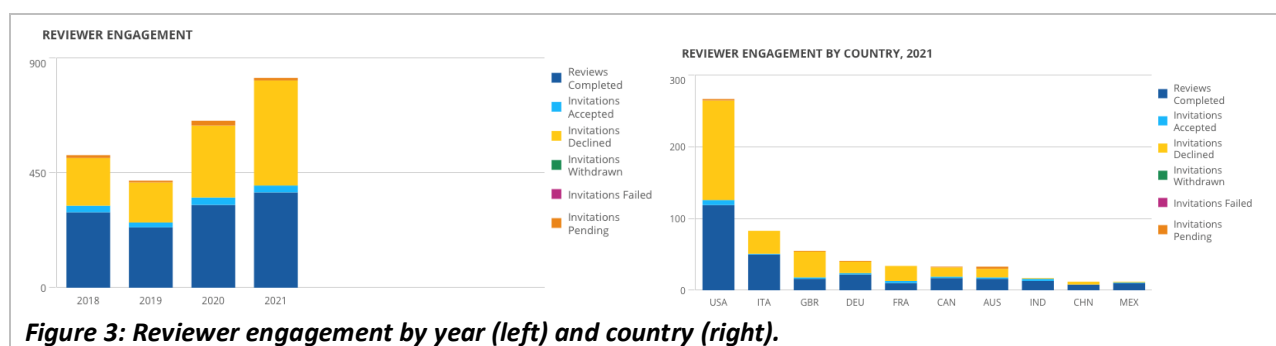


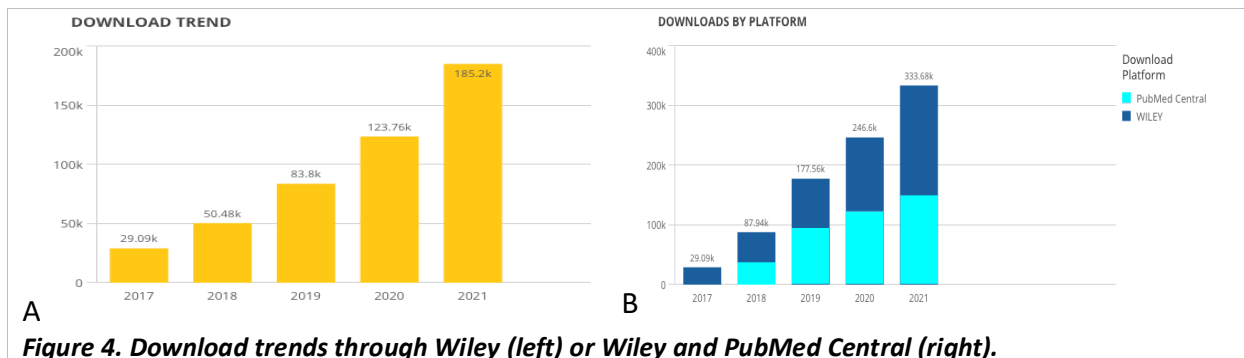
Figure 3: Reviewer engagement by year (left) and country (right).

Epilepsia Open continues to publish four issues a year with an increasing number of articles per issue (20-28 in 2021 vs 12-21 in 2020). Topics range across a wide spectrum of research and health care with most common topics being treatments, genetic, epigenetic or molecular, electrophysiology, animal models, epidemiology, and biomarkers, comorbidities, and public health issues.

Geographic distribution of authors submitting and publishing in *Epilepsia Open*: More countries are now submitting to *Epilepsia Open* compared to past years (37 vs 16-32 between 2016-2020). Among published articles, 38.9% originate from the USA; UK, Japan, China, Canada and Italy follow.

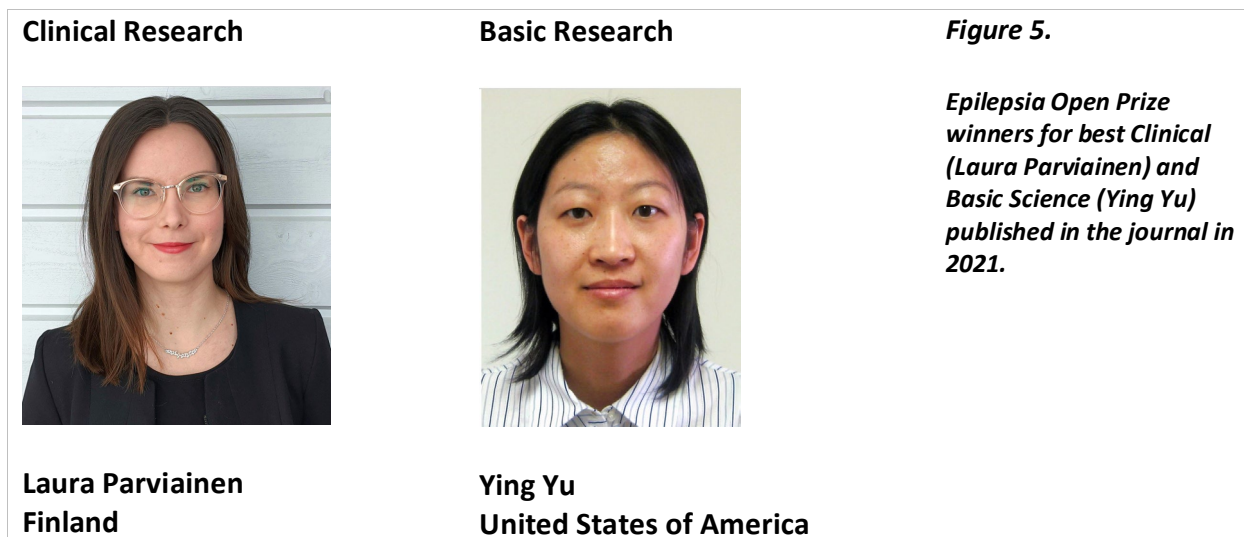
Production: Time from acceptance to first appearance of accepted article online was 4.7 days and time from acceptance to early view article online is improved to 25.4 days.

Downloads: The journal has been steadily increasing its visibility and readership. The steady increase in article downloads continues (185,200 downloads from Wiley website, increased by 49.6%, **Figure 4A**). Similarly downloads from PubMed central has been increasing (**Figure 4B**) resulting in a total of 333,680 downloads in 2021 (35.3% increase vs 2020). Top countries to download articles from the Wiley website are the United States, China, United Kingdom and India.

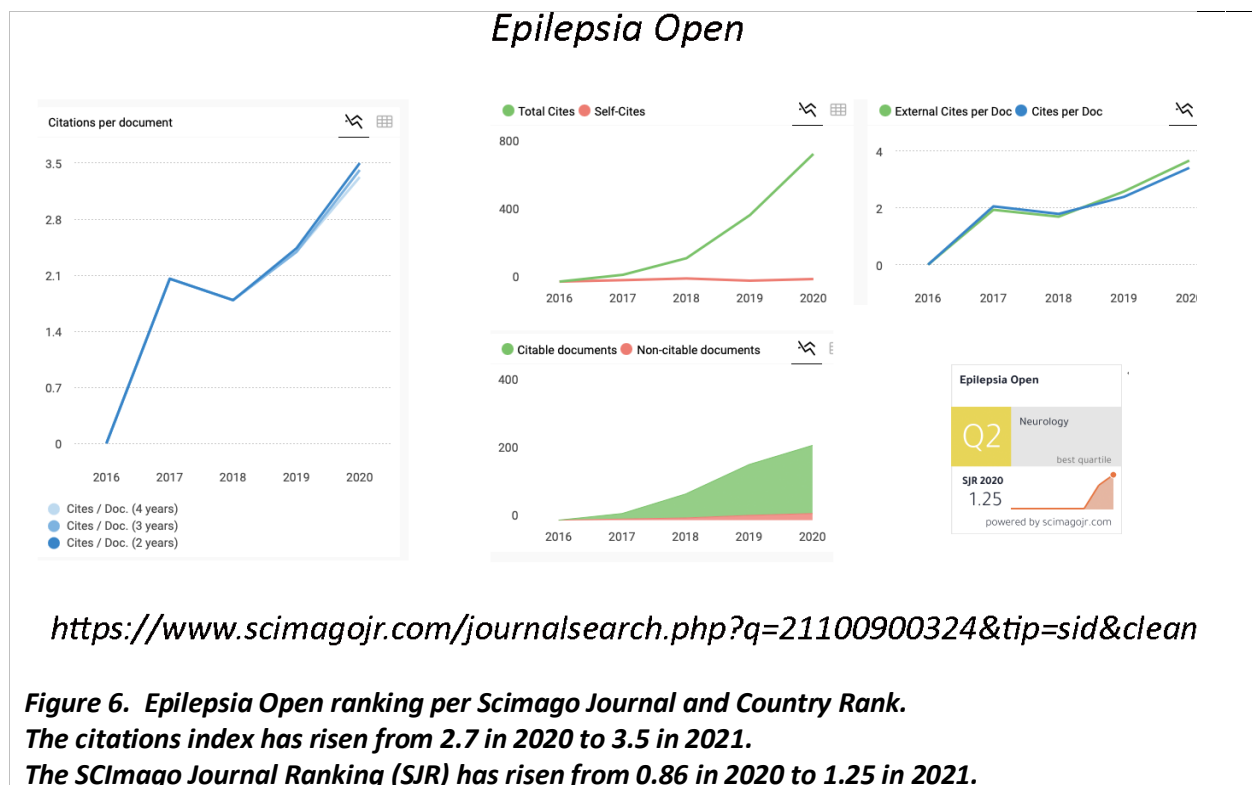


Epilepsia Open Prizes: Two *Epilepsia Open* prizes were awarded in 2021 to the best clinical and basic science original articles published in the journal in 2020 (**Figure 5**). The best clinical science prize was awarded to **Dr. Laura Parviainen** (Finland) for her article [Impact of diagnostic delay on seizure outcome in newly diagnosed focal epilepsy](#), Laura Parviainen, Reetta Kälviäinen, Leena Jutila, First published: 06 November 2020 Volume 5 issue 4

The Prize for the best basic science article was awarded to **Dr. Ying Yu** (USA) for her article on [COX-2/PGE2 axis regulates hippocampal BDNF/TrkB signaling via EP2 receptor after prolonged seizures](#), Ying Yu, Jianxiong Jiang, First published: 27 May 2020 Volume 5 issue 3. The winners presented their research at the virtual IEC congress in September 2021.



Citations: *Epilepsia Open* will receive its first impact factor (IF) in 2022 as it has been selected for expedited acceptance in SCI-E. Notably, Scimago lists *Epilepsia Open* at Q2 of Neurology journals with a tentative 2-year IF of 3.5 (**Figure 6**). The top 20 highly cited articles published in 2020-21 received between 3-60 citations each.



Altmetrics: The top 20 articles published in 2021 have received altmetric attention score between 10-63, ranking between 25% to 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric.

Indexing: *Epilepsia Open* is currently fully indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (2017), Pubmed Central (March 2018), Scopus (December 2018), EMBASE (November 2019), MEDLINE/PubMed (2021) and has been selected for expedited admission to SCI-E (2021). An impact factor is anticipated in 2022.

Special Issues

Three special issues are planned on:

- (a) Special issue on “Redesigning the hypotheses for drug-resistant epilepsy” with guest editor Dr Luisa Lilla Rocha Arrieta, based on the proceedings of the Latin American Congress of Epilepsy. The issue is almost completed and will be published in 2022.

- (b) Preclinical common data elements of the TASK3 group of the ILAE/AES Joint Translational Task Force with guest editors Aristeia Galanopoulou, Matthew Walker, Terence O'Brien, Greg Worrell for the ILAE / AES Joint Translational Task Force. The issue has most of the reports accepted and is anticipated to be published within 2022.
- (c) Special issue on "Status epilepticus: Neuronal injury, Plasticity and Therapies / Special Issue Celebrating the legacy of Dr. Claude G. Wasterlain" with guest editors David Naylor, Andrey Mazarati, Raman Sankar, Denson G. Fujikawa.

Editorial Board Members

A change in the editorial board membership was done as Dr Lara Jehi (USA) rotated off and Drs Kathryn Davis (USA), Rosa Michaelis (Germany) and Yuping Wang (China) were invited to participate as associate editors.

Recommendations for Future Work

Marketing: Further marketing campaigns are planned by promoting sample issues, promotions at conferences, journal app, and promotion upon inclusion to PUBMED Central. Promotions will be done via email, newsletters, online ads, press releases, print ads, social media, and surveys. We will also try to target with these marketing tools countries from all continents.

Submissions and workflow: Goals for the upcoming year are to:

- (1) Increase the number of high quality original research submissions,
- (2) Increase the number of invited reviews, special issues, and research from investigators and experts known for their high quality publications on topics that are current and likely to generate interest from the readership.
- (3) Accelerate the peer review time and improve reviewer engagement and training of younger reviewers
- (4) Maintain the number of basic and translational science article submissions at high levels,
- (5) Continue the re-evaluation of the needs and thematic priorities of our journal so that it becomes competitive in the field of epilepsy publications.

2021 Highlights

- *Epilepsia Open* is currently fully indexed, including MEDLINE/PubMed and SCI-E and will acquire its first impact factor in 2022.
- There is a continuing growth with increasing number of submissions, downloads and citations. The Scimago 2-year citation index was 3.5 in 2021.
- Drs Laura Parvianen (Finland) and Ying Yu (USA) were the selected recipients of the *Epilepsia Open* Clinical and Basic Science prizes.