Publications Committee Report

Impact Factor
The 2010 Journal Impact Factors (IF) held steady for all journals. *PRV*, once again ranked first in the field of physiology, with an IF of 26.866 and *Physiology* ranked third, with an IF of 7.953.

Journal Statistics

*Accepted manuscripts.* Time from manuscript submission to first decision for 2011 averages 28 days compared to 25 days in 2010. The average rejection rate for all journals was 55% in 2011, the same as in 2010.

*Manuscript submissions.* Manuscript submissions in 2011 decreased by 3% vs. 2010 across all journals and all manuscript types, an improvement compared to the 10% decrease in 2009 vs. 2008. Other societies, including FASEB societies, have experienced a decrease in submissions.

*Articles and pages published.* The number of regular research articles published decreased by 6% from 3232 in 2010 to 3046 in 2011; published invited articles increased by 6% from 515 in 2010 to 547 in 2011. The number of manuscripts in AiPS increased 1% from 3442 in 2010 to 3496 in 2011. Journal pages published decreased by 2% compared to 2010. The number of published pages was 6% under the 2011 page cap.

*Supplemental data.* A total of 610 data supplements were published in 2011, 80 of which were video clips. This represents a 6% decrease in total data supplements, but a 60% increase in video supplements, from 2010 (vs. a 17% increase in 2010 compared to 2009). Of the non-video data supplements, approximately 15% were published in *AJP-Cell* and 18%, in *Journal of Neurophysiology*.

*AuthorChoice.* There were 34 requests for AuthorChoice in 2011 (compared to 33 in 2010), which represents less than 1% of all accepted articles during that period.

*Color figures.* In 2011, 4,348 color figures were published in APS journals of which 3111 were published by APS member authors, at no charge to them, representing $1,244,400 in revenue foregone in 2011.

*‘Call for Papers’ in APS journals.* In 2011, there were 318 submitted and 139 papers published in response to calls for papers.

*PubMed Central deposits.* As a result of an agreement between the APS and the NIH signed in 2008, the APS delivers articles to PubMed Central (PMC) on behalf of authors funded by NIH and other funding bodies such as the Wellcome Trust, in compliance with the policies of those funding bodies. PMC makes the full text of articles fully available 12 months after publication. In 2011, 1,706 NIH-funded and 38 Wellcome Trust-funded research articles were deposited into PMC by the APS on behalf of authors, representing 56% and less than 1%, respectively, of the total number of research articles published in 2011.

Journal of Neurophysiology
Total NPRC submissions to JN from October 2008 - October 2011 were 103, which comprises approximately 4% of total original research submissions, 96% of which come from the *Journal of Neuroscience*. NPRC submissions have higher acceptance rates compared with *JN* de novo submissions (79% vs 58%).

*Journal of Neurophysiology ‘preprint server’ Trial.*
The results of the trial prior to the time of assessment (February 2011) were: 14 unique manuscripts were submitted to JN that had been posted to a preprint server. Of these manuscripts, two were rejected, one was withdrawn, nine were in process JN and the other was in press.

**Press Releases and Social Media**
In 2011, 47 press releases were distributed (30 in 2010). Of these, 34% (30% in 2010) were related to APS journal findings. APS journal findings continue to be picked up by top-tier mainstream media.

**Publications Ethics**
The number of ethical cases arising during peer review and production has increased significantly over the past few years. The overall total number of ethical cases that originated in 2011 was 251. This total marks an increase of 117 cases (87%) vs. 2010. The largest number of cases by category was figure manipulation (192 cases) followed by duplication of data (16 cases). In first quarter 2012, there have been 77 cases identified, and therefore the case load continues to increase.

**Book Program**
*Comprehensive Physiology*. The first issue of *Comprehensive Physiology* was published in January 2011 and included all of the Handbook content, digitized (“Classic Content”) and 25 new articles. As of February, 2012, 420 articles have been invited, of which 158 have been accepted, 31 are in review or revision and 104 have been published. The invited articles are from seven of the 13 sections, covering 12 topics; “topics” correspond to a volume of the published, print Handbook.

*Comprehensive Physiology* is being published as a quarterly journal, and therefore updates are continuous. The journal has also been evaluated for inclusion in Scopus by the Scopus Content Selection & Advisory Board, which has advised that the title will be accepted for inclusion in Scopus.

*Book Monograph Series*. In 2011, the APS signed an Agreement with Springer for the publication of its book series, *Methods in Physiology, Clinical Physiology, and Perspectives in Physiology* (formerly, *People and Ideas*). One title, “Mechanism of Muscular Contraction” by Jack Rall is in production at Springer. Proposals for monographs continue to be submitted to the Book Committee, and four new titles are under consideration by the Book Committee and Springer. Since the existing Book Committee was functioning as the Advisory Board to *Comprehensive Physiology*, a new Book Committee Chair, Dee Silverthorn, was appointed by Publications Chair Hershel Raff.

**Ethics education grant proposal**
The Publications Department, in collaboration with the Education Department, submitted an Ethics Education in Science and Engineering (EESE) grant proposal to NSF (3-yr; 400K). The proposed project will develop, field-test, and widely disseminate a set of teaching modules focused on building student skills in understanding and applying the professional standards of practice for publication ethics in science and engineering. Modules will be developed and tested...
through a proven process involving input and participation from an expert Project Advisory Board, graduate students, Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) course directors, and three professional societies (American Physiological Society (APS), Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) and Society for Biological Engineering (SBE) representing broad fields in biological sciences and engineering. Modules will utilize highly effective, student-centered pedagogies, including learning cycles, structured case studies, and the application of professional standards of practice for publication ethics to students’ own research. The modules will be a key component in a larger collaborative effort by APS, BMES, and SBE to create and support a Publication Ethics Community of Practice (PubEth COP). The modules and PubEth COP will be widely disseminated on an ongoing basis by the partnering societies through annual society workshops and short courses, and through promotion to RCR course directors, lab group directors, and other professional societies. All materials developed will be freely available at partnering society websites and ethics websites and will be catalogued in three National Science Digital Libraries.

Committee Issues

Open Access Journal proposal. Council approved the Publication Committee’s recommendation to move forward from the proposal stage towards finalizing the publication model for a new open access journal published by the APS or in conjunction with The Physiological Society. Council subsequently approved the recommendation of the option of Wiley-Blackwell acting as the publisher of the journal on behalf of both societies. The option remains that the APS will act as the publisher for both societies.

Information requirements for animal studies reported in APS journals. The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) and the National Academies of Science (NAS) have issued guidelines for reporting in vivo experiments in scientific publications and have requested that APS adopt their particular guidelines. The ARRIVE (NC3Rs) and ILAR (NAS) guidelines have been reviewed by the APS Animal Care and Experimentation (ACE) Committee and a subgroup of the Committee drafted a document that recommends the details to include in the description of in vivo studies reported in the Methods sections of our journals. It is intended to be posted with our journals’ Information for Authors. The Publications Committee agreed to link to ARRIVE and NAS guidelines, which will include a statement that reads as follows:

“The description of animal procedures in the manuscript should be sufficient to permit readers to evaluate the quality of the data presented and to replicate the experiments if needed. Authors may want to review guidelines provided by the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (National Academy of Sciences), Guidance for the Description of Animal Research in Scientific Publications (www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13241) and those of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research, Animals in Research: In Vivo Experiments (www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=1357) for additional guidance to determine what items are relevant to their study.’’