

## 2015 PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION REPORT<sup>1</sup>

June 25, 2015

Robert M. Rauber, AMS Publications Commissioner

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Sharon Kristovich deserves special credit for programming EM/PM to generate tables and figures in this report.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2015 PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION (PC) REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides highlights of the 2014 publication activities for AMS scholarly publications. The list of 2015 Editors for each journal is included as are anticipated changes for the 2016 Editorial Boards. The list of 2014 Editor's Award nominations are given.

Council action is required for (1) approval of William Emery and Luca Baldini as Co-Chief Editors of JTECH and Jerome Smith as Chief Editor of JPO. We also request approval of a 2-year extension for WCAS Chief Editor Amanda Lynch. In addition we request approval for an initial 3-year appointment as an at-large member for Vanda Grubišić, and 2-year at-large extension appointments for Joseph Klemp and David Jorgensen. (2) We request Council Approval of two new editor awards: one for *Earth Interactions* and one for the *Glossary of Meteorology*. Neither currently has an Editor's Award. (3) We request Council approval to eliminate page charges for WCAS. A justification is provided in the report. (4) We request that Council approve changes in the terms of reference for several journals to help clarify which papers are appropriate for JCLI/JAMC and which papers are appropriate for WCAS/JAMC/EI.

A total of 3267 manuscripts of all types (including BAMS proposals) were received by the 11 AMS scholarly journals in 2014, an increase over the 3128 submissions in 2013, repeating last year's achievement of setting an all-time record high for yearly submissions to AMS journals. The average time to first editorial decision has remained below the PC goal of 70 days, but this year the PC conducted an extensive statistical study of this statistic, the results of which are summarized in Sec. 17 and Appendix F. Author success has maintained a near-constant 64%. Average production time has decreased from a high of 269 days in January of 2008 to 97 days in January of 2015, despite a large increase in submissions during the same period. In 2014, the number of published pages was 33,118, an all-time record. The number of published articles reached 2000, an all-time record. Expedited contributions (ECs) have been in place for four years. Of the ECs, about 65% remain ECs after first review and 35% are converted or rejected. The full report gives a complete summary of journal statistics and rankings.

This report summarizes actions being taken by the PC to (1) reduce the tail of distribution on time to initial decision, (2) improve WCAS performance and increase authorship potential of WCAS, and (3) clarify journal areas through modification of terms of reference of AMS journals. The report also summarizes PC actions concerning best practices for data stewardship and citation. An update on progress toward an AMS *Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol* is provided. The report reviews PC discussions related to two glossaries maintained by the AMS. It also presents final author guidelines for plagiarism and CrossCheck use. The report also summarizes (1) PC ideas to diversify the Editor pool, (2) actions to eliminate page charges for Comments to encourage scientific discourse, and (3) an initiative to establish in the Author's Guide best practices for use of color. Finally, PC actions are summarized designed to encourage editors to recommend Papers of Note to be highlighted in BAMS.

## 1. Introduction

This report provides highlights of the 2014 publication activities for AMS scholarly publications. The list of 2015 Editors for each journal is included and anticipated changes for the 2016 Editorial Boards are discussed. Also included is a list of 2015 Editor's Award nominations; the AMS Awards Oversight Committee has approved these nominations for Council consideration. Council action (yellow highlights) is required for (1) the nominations and/or renewals of Chief Editors of JTECH-O, JTECH-A, JPO, WCAS, GOM, and three at-large members; (2) the creation of Editor's Awards for *Earth Interactions* and the *Glossary of Meteorology* and permission for EI and GoM to participate with other journals in the five joint awards already approved by Council; (3) approval of the elimination of page charges for WCAS; and (4) approval of changes in the terms of reference for some of the journals. These points are covered in detail in this document.

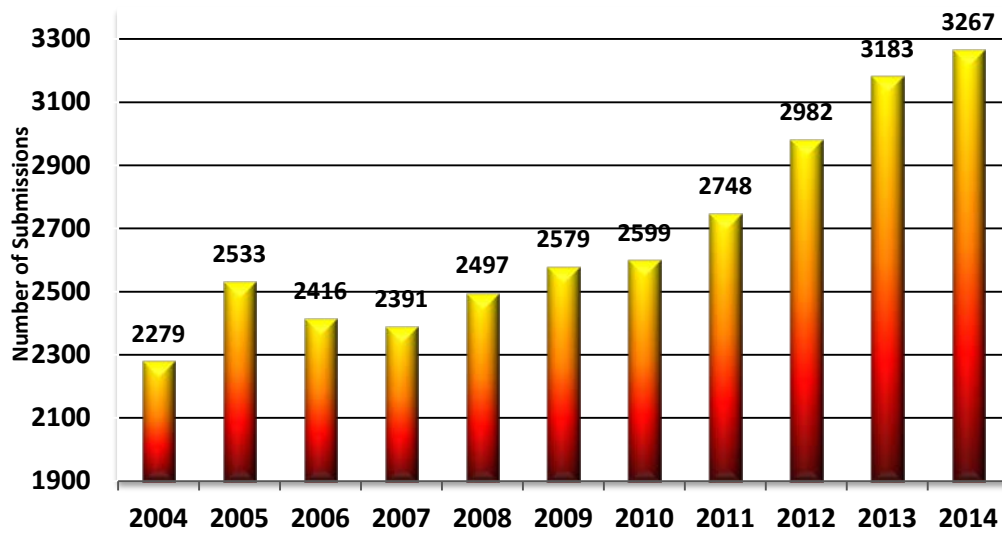
## 2. 2014 Editorial Operations and Submission Trends

**Table 1: Summary of submissions to AMS journals**

Journal	Total Manuscripts:							Average Days to:	
	Received	Final Dispositions <sup>1</sup>	Final Dispositions that were:			Initial Decisions that were:		Initial Decision	Final Disposition
			Accept	Reject	Withdrawn	Major	Minor		
JAMC	321	299	152	138	9	141	33	68.3	149.8
JAS	390	376	251	114	11	198	82	58.9	151.4
JCLI	858	796	538	249	9	424	146	80.2	174.5
JHM	238	215	151	61	3	121	39	74.3	182.8
JPO	257	242	165	68	9	133	56	61.9	190.8
JTECH	262	260	184	58	18	144	63	81.1	195.0
MWR	419	399	245	141	13	221	49	54.4	145.1
WAF	163	154	87	61	6	77	23	59.6	150.0
WCAS	51	57	28	28	1	28	6	105.3	213.2
BAMS	277	286	162	96	28	84	89	53.6	141.3
EI	31	24	13	9	2	9	3	92.8	167.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3267</b>	<b>3108</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1023</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>165.5</b>
			<b>63.5%</b>	<b>32.9%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>50.8%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>		

<sup>1</sup>The total manuscripts with final dispositions exclude correspondence and transfers. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

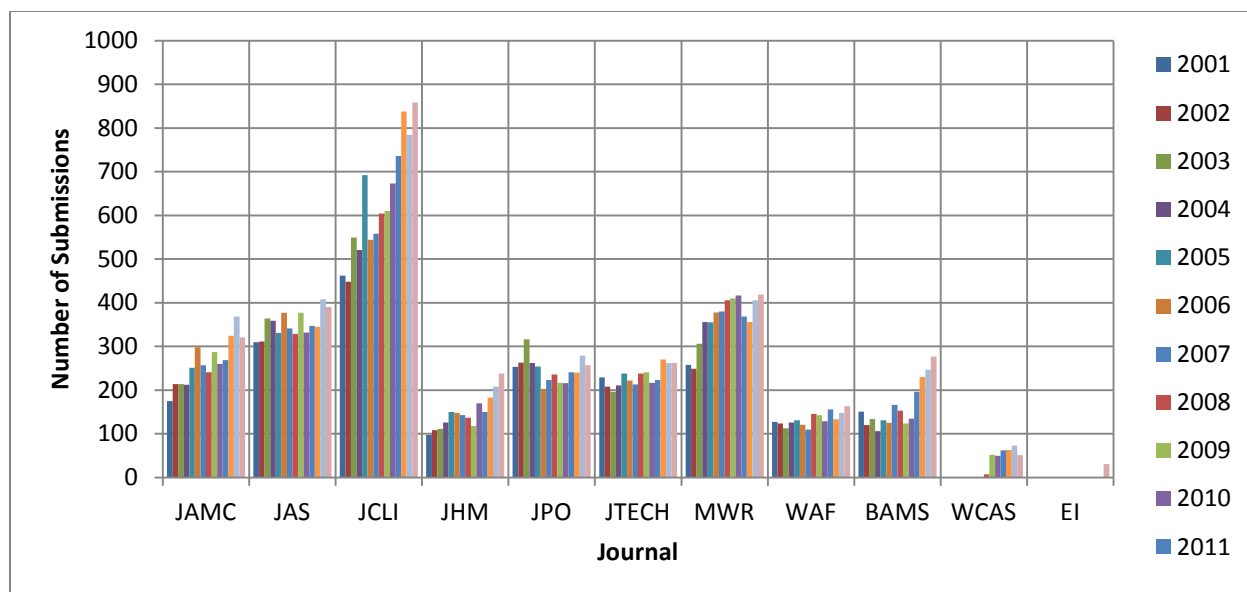
A summary of the 2014 publications submissions and editorial decisions are shown in Table 1. Figure 1 is a plot of the number of submissions (including EI beginning 2014) from 2004 to 2014. The table to the right of Fig. 1 shows the 2013–2014 change in each journal's submissions. Journal abbreviations are as follows: JAMC—*Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*; JAS—*Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*; JCLI—*Journal of Climate*; JHM—*Journal of Hydrometeorology*; JPO—*Journal of Physical Oceanography*; JTECH—*Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanographic Technology*; MWR—*Monthly Weather Review*; WAF—*Weather and Forecasting*; WCAS—*Weather, Climate, and Society*; BAMS—*Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*; EI—*Earth Interactions*.



\*=EI included in totals beginning in 2014

	2013	2014	$\Delta$
JCLI	784	858	74
JAMC	368	321	-47
JTECH	262	262	0
JHM	208	238	30
BAMS	177	0	-177
WCAS	73	51	-22
JAS	408	390	-18
JPO	279	257	-22
MWR	406	419	13
WAF	148	163	15
EI		31	31
	3113	2959	-154

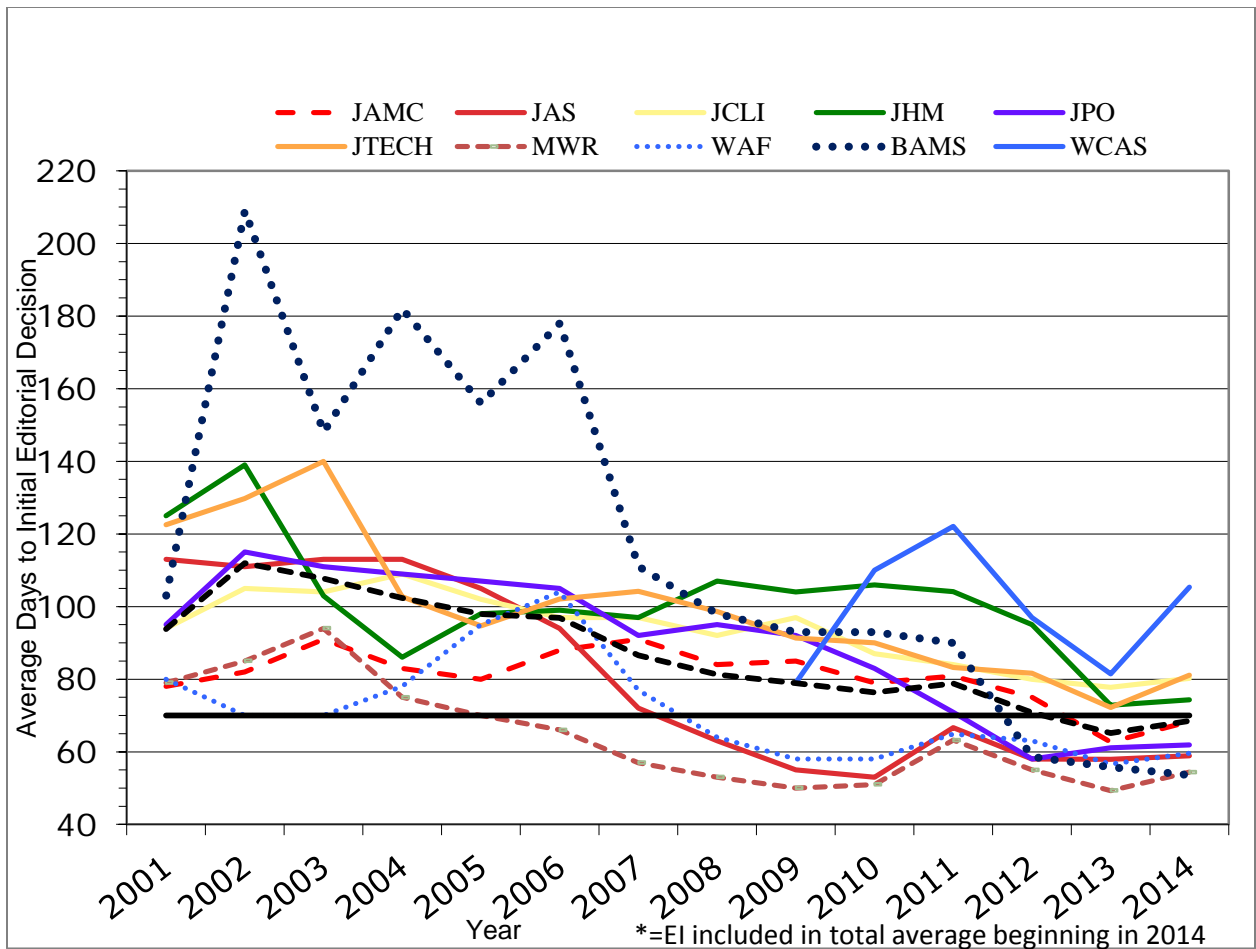
**Figure 1: Annual submission rate to AMS journals during the last decade, and the change in submission rate for each journal between 2013 and 2014**



**Figure 2: Growth in submissions to AMS journals over the last 14 years**

A total of 3267 manuscripts of all types (including BAMS proposals) were received by the 11 AMS scholarly journals in 2014, an increase over the 3183 submissions over 2013, repeating last year's achievement of setting an all-time record high for yearly submissions to AMS journals. Note that EI was not included in 2013. EI had 31 submissions, so the actual increase in the journals reporting in both years was smaller. Submission growth (excluding EI) was 1.6% over 2013. JCLI, MWR, and JAS continue to be the three largest journals for submissions. JAMC, JPO, JAS, and WCAS had declines in submissions, while the other journals increased submissions or stayed the same. JAMC saw a significant 2-year increase in submissions from 269 in 2011 to 324 in 2012 and to 368 in 2013. The decline brings JAMC more toward historical numbers. The decline in WCAS is disturbing. The PC discussed this in detail at its meeting. A summary and recommended action is given in Sec. 18. If we look over a broader time period (Fig. 2), we can see that all journals except WAF and JPO are generally experiencing continued growth. WAF and JPO have remained largely steady over the last decade. A total of 1186 submissions, including BAMS proposals and EI submissions, arrived through April 2015. If this rate is maintained, we are on target for 3558 manuscripts, which would be a record year if that comes to pass.

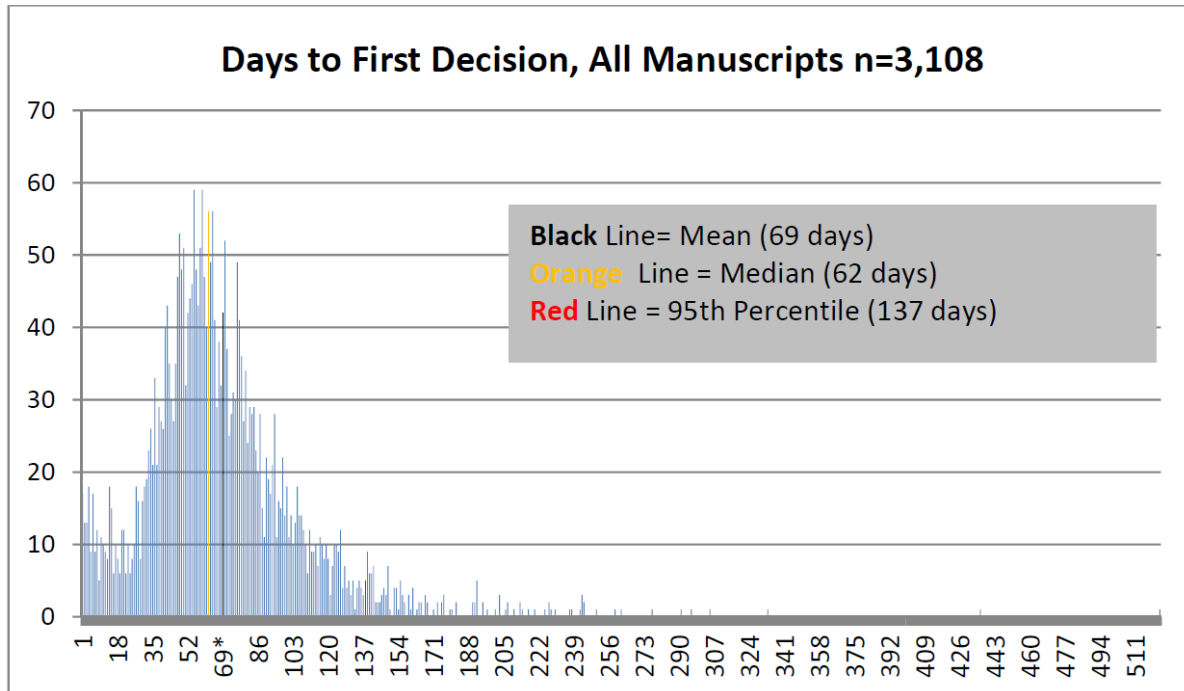
The time for first editorial decision can be seen in the column labeled "Average Days to Initial Decision" in Table 1. The 13-year evolution of this parameter can be visualized in Fig. 4. This is one important metric for Editor performance. With continued emphasis within the Commission for improved author service, the time to first editorial decision has been decreasing since 2006 but had a slight increase in 2014 (e.g., 2008: 81 days; 2009: 79 days; 2010: 76 days; 2011: 79 days; 2012: 68.2 days; 2013: 65.5 days; 2014: 68.5 days). For the third year in a row, we have reached our stated Commission goal of 70 days.



**Figure 3: Time to initial decisions for manuscripts submitted to AMS journals (including BAMS proposals)**

Here we see that four journals (JCLI, JHM, JTECH, WCAS, and EI) still have not reached the 70-day goal; all others have surpassed the goal, with MWR achieving a record 49 days. The worst performing journal, WCAS, had a jump to from 85 days in 2013 to 105 days in 2014, another disturbing trend for the journal.

As requested by Council last year, the PC looked at the complete statistics of the time to initial decision to try to understand outliers. Figure 5 shows these statistics for all journals. This analysis pointed to serious problems with some manuscripts. The question of how to deal with this occupied considerable discussion time at the PC meeting in June 2015. I will address this issue more thoroughly in Sec. 17 of this report.






**Figure 4: Full statistics on 2014 days to first decision for all AMS journals**

Author success rate (63.5%) has maintained a nearly constant 65% plus or minus a percent throughout most of the AMS publishing history. Contrast that acceptance rate with some of the social science journals with rates <30%. Given the relative constant turnover in Editors from year to year, the Commission is happy to see that author success rate remains constant regardless of Editorial Board changes.

### 3. Editor Performance

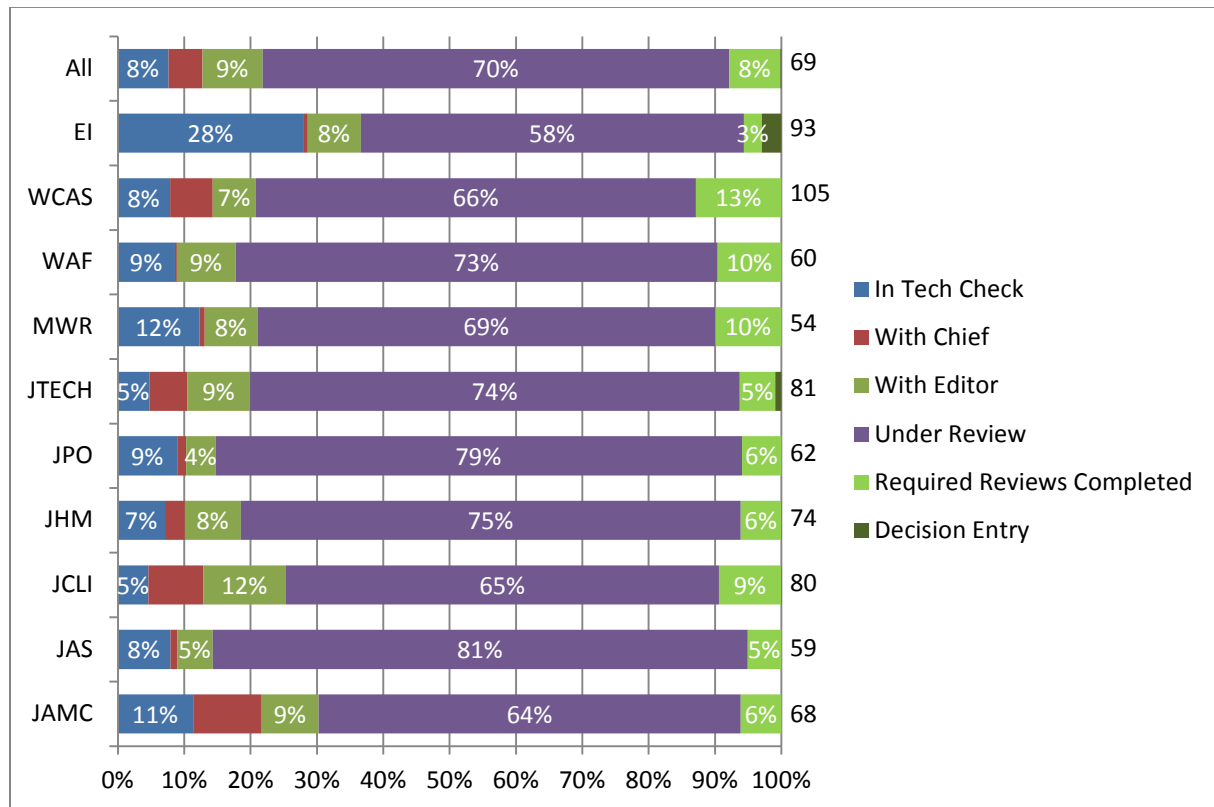
The AMS Editorial Board consists of 89 Chief Editors/Editors. The metric that the Publications Commission uses to gauge Editor performance is based on the time to first editorial decision for a new manuscript. The top-performing Editors, in terms of quickest time to first editorial decision for manuscripts that were not rejected without review, are shown in Table 2. 58% of our editors had averages less than or equal to the 70-day target. It is worth noting that the time to first decision is not all in the Editor's hands but involves several steps. Figure 5 summarizes these steps and the percent time spent in each step for each of the journals. We are looking at ways to reduce time in each step of the process to continue to reduce the time from submission to first decision.

**Table 2: Gold, silver, and bronze star editors for 2014\***

Gold			Silver			Bronze
 Editor (Journal)	Ave Days to Initial Decision	# Final Dispositions	 Editor (Journal)	Ave Days to Initial Decision	# Final Dispositions	 Editor (Journal)
<b>Schultz (MWR)</b>	40.1	56	<b>Waldstreicher (BAMS)</b>	53.9	63	<b>Sun (MWR)</b>
<b>McTaggart- Cowan (MWR)</b>	41.3	39	<b>C. Wu (JAS)</b>	54.0	52	<b>Wu (JCLI)</b>
<b>Markowski (WAF)</b>	47.9	54	<b>Mercier (JPO)</b>	55.1	15	<b>Heinselman (MWR)</b>
<b>Spall (JPO)</b>	49.5	45	<b>Garcia (JAS)</b>	55.5	30	<b>Heywood</b>
<b>Tung (JAS) &amp; Roundy (MWR)</b>	51.9	28	<b>Durran (MWR)</b>	57.2	20	<b>Cai (JAS)</b>
<b>Kristovich (JAMC)</b>	53.6	43	<b>Bryan (MWR)</b>	57.8	35	<b>Grabowski (JAS)</b>

\* Manuscripts rejected without entering peer review were excluded from these averages.





**Figure 5: Percentage of time spent in tech check (qualification), with Chief Editor, with Editor, in review, and after review but before decision, as a percent of total time between initial submission date and first decision**

#### 4. Expedited Contributions

Expedited contributions (ECs) have been a feature of AMS journals for four years. The twin goals of ECs were to reduce the time from submission to publication of important research papers and to encourage authors to develop short, concise contributions to the journals. Table 3 shows summary statistics for ECs for 2014. Approximately 11% of all submissions start as ECs. To remain an expedited contribution after first review, the paper must be accepted with minor revisions. For papers with reviews recommending major revisions or rejects, the editor has the option of either rejecting the paper or moving it into the standard article workflow. Of the submitted ECs, about 63% remain as ECs and 37% are converted or rejected. These numbers are close to accept/reject statistics of all AMS submissions. The time to initial decision ranges from 29 to 59 days for all journals. The average time to initial decision for all journals was 48 days, and the average time to final decision was 78 days. Overall, the expedited contribution concept appears to be working well, and the Publications Commission supports its continuation. We note

in Sec. 5 that production time for articles is approaching that for ECs. This is a result of production time efficiencies that have been enacted for both ECs and articles.

**Table 3: Summary of 2014 expedited contributions to AMS journals**

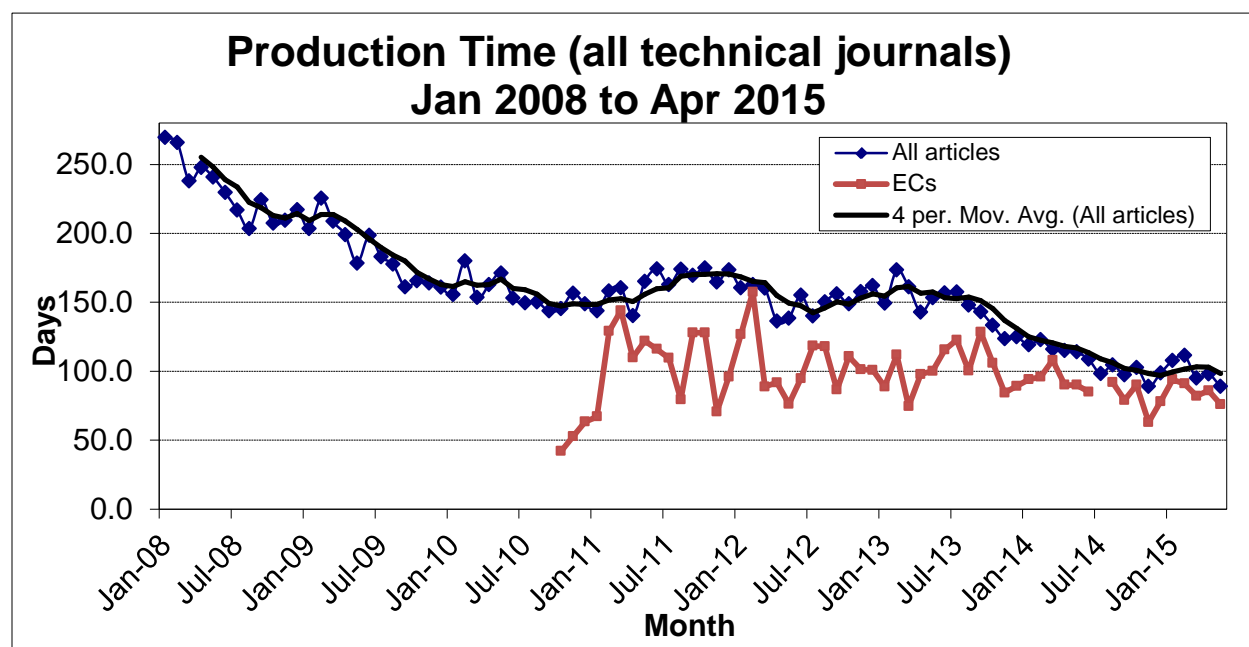
Journal	Expedited Contributions in 2014 that:				Total Number of Submissions	Percentage of:		Average Days to:	
	Were Submitted	Were Converted to Articles	Reached Final Disposition as ECs	Are Under Consideration in 2015		Total Submissions beginning as ECs	Expedited Contributions Converted	Initial Decision	Final Disposition
JAMC	15	3	11	1	321	4.7%	20.0%	53.7	62.0
JAS	34	10	19	5	390	8.7%	29.4%	30.8	52.2
JCLI	71	25	42	4	858	8.3%	35.2%	60.0	68.8
JHM	14	5	8	1	238	5.9%	35.7%	55.7	77.0
JPO	27	6	18	3	257	10.5%	22.2%	35.4	50.4
JTECH	19	7	10	2	262	7.3%	63.2%	52.5	74.7
MWR	20	6	10	4	419	4.8%	30.0%	37.8	77.1
WAF	11	2	9	0	163	6.7%	18.2%	30.4	56.9
WCAS	4	0	2	2	51	7.8%	0%	78.7	66.5
EI	2	0	0	2	31	6.5%	0%	n/a	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2990</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>63.6</b>
Average Days to Initial Decision for All ECs = 47.1					Average Days to Initial Decision for All Articles (Excluding BAMS proposals) =69.2				
Average Days to Final Disposition for All ECs = 63.6					Average Days to Final Disposition for All Articles (Excluding BAMS proposals) =166.5				

## 5. Production Time and Future Article-Based Workflow

Production time is defined in various ways by different publishers. For AMS journals, production time is the number of days between editor acceptance of a paper following peer review and the appearance of the final article online. The AMS publications staff now processes roughly 2000 accepted articles per year. Production of the final articles involves an automated pre-editing step (language and formatting standardization), copyediting, technical editing, typesetting, author review of proofs, AMS review of corrected proofs, assignment to an issue, and transfer of content to the printer and online host. So that authors' work can be disseminated as quickly as possible, the AMS began publishing Early Online Release (EOR) articles in 2010, a process by which the final accepted PDF of the manuscript is made available online and assigned a final digital object identifier (DOI). With the permission of the authors, the fully citable EOR is available online within 7 to 10 days of acceptance. Upon publication, the EOR is taken down from the AMS web delivery system and replaced with the final article. AMS production specialists continue to employ new technologies and ideas to streamline production workflows and increase efficiency, such as employing the Aries Systems ProduXion Manager® (PM) software (a companion to the Aries EM software used by editors and reviewers), and reducing the steps involved in the copyediting and technical editing processes. Reducing production time continues to be of paramount importance to AMS and its authors. The results of these improvements are apparent from Figs. 6 and 7. Figure 6 shows the average production time of all AMS journals since 2008. Average production time has decreased from of a high of 269 days in January of 2008 to 97 days in January 2015. As Fig. 7 shows, this decrease occurred during a period when submissions to our journals increased substantially, a remarkable achievement.

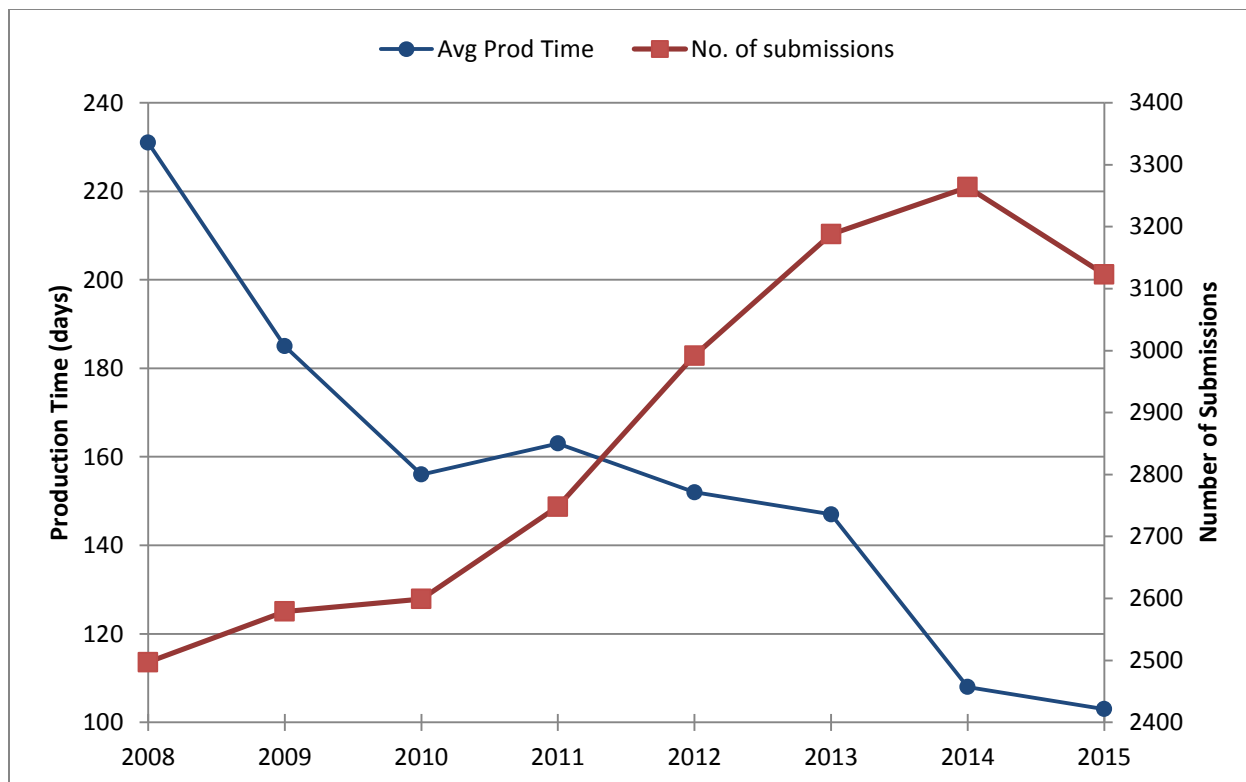
Production time for expedited contributions has also decreased, but the two types of papers are approaching each other as production times decrease.

As I noted last year, the AMS publications department is developing an approach called article-based workflow. This has taken more time than expected. At present, publication of an article in final form is delayed until all the articles in a print issue are collected. At that time, all the articles in the issue are released online simultaneously. We expect that article-based workflow may reduce the production time for an article to 20–30 days. This approach hopefully will be in use during 2015, and certainly by year's end.



**Figure 6: Production time for all technical journals and expedited contributions**

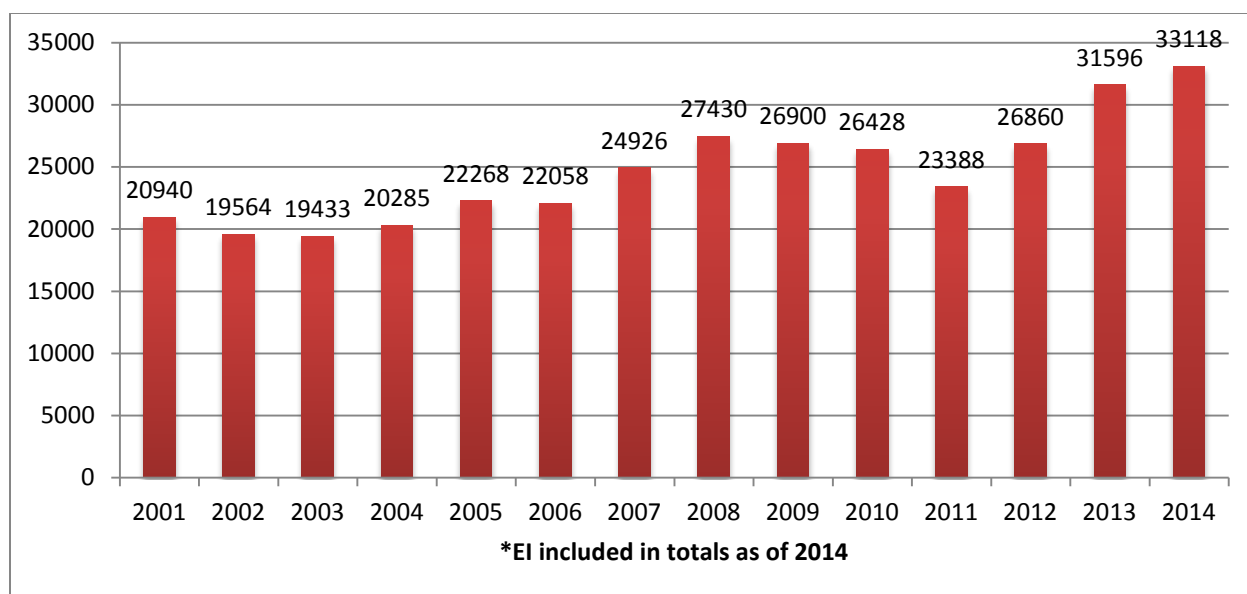
***CURRENT PRODUCTION TIME:*** August 2014 = 99 days, September 2014 = 104 days, January 2015 = 97 days.



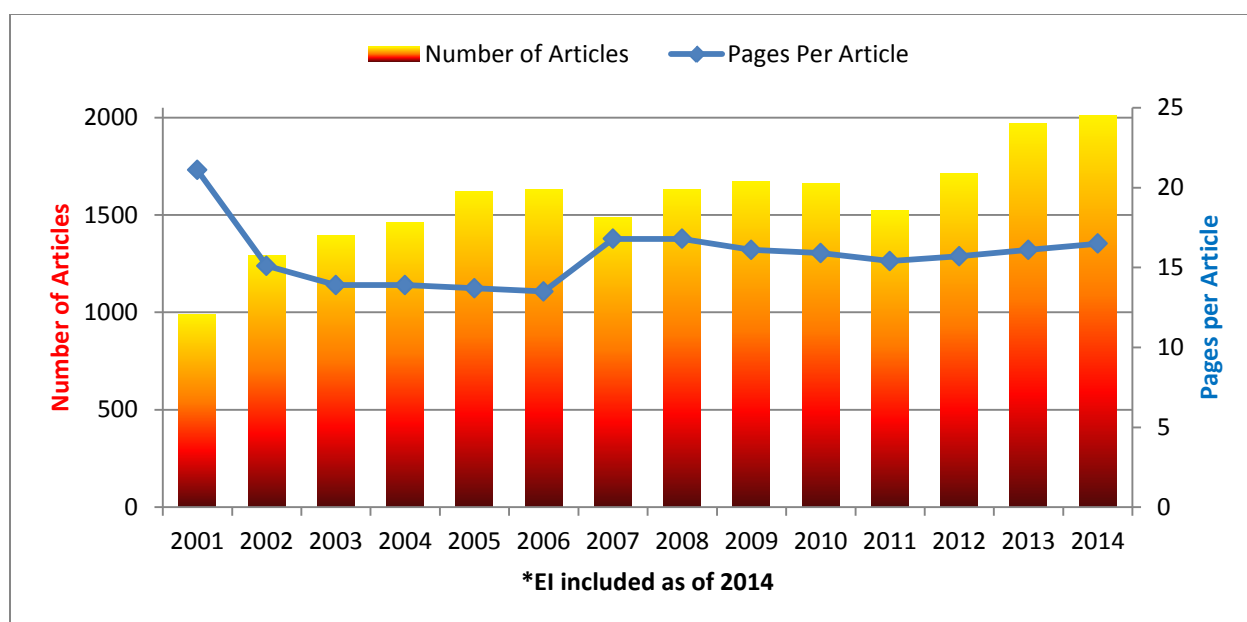
**Figure 7: Production time versus number of submissions 2008–2015.**

## 6. Published Pages

Figure 8 shows the trend in published pages in AMS journals since 2001. In 2014, the number jumped from 31,596 pages to 33,118 pages, an ~5% increase and an all-time record. We may see growth continue with the zero supplemental page charge for color implemented in April 2013. Figure 9 shows the number of articles and average pages per article. The number of published articles, ~2000, in 2014 was also an all-time record. The number of articles published increased slightly from 2013.



**Figure 8: Trends in published pages in AMS journals since 2001**



**Figure 9: Trends in number of articles and pages per article in AMS journals since 2001**

## 7. Future AMS Monographs and Differentiation from Special Collections

During the last year, we have successfully moved peer review of AMS monographs to electronic processing. The two monographs in progress have been moved into this electronic workflow. Currently, two monographs, one on the DOE ARM project, and one honoring the contributions of Prof. Yanai, are in progress and nearing completion. All new monographs will be handled electronically starting with peer review, and the articles within the monographs will appear on the Allen Press website. With these changes, PC members raised a question as to how we separate monographs from special collections. The PC believed it was worthwhile to have a sub-

committee consider this issue carefully and develop author guidelines that clearly define the scope of a monograph and special collection, differentiating them. Ultimately, it will be the Chief Editor of monographs' responsibility, with Commissioner approval, to accept a monograph proposal. The committee recommendations will be reported at a subsequent Council meeting.

## 8. AMS Books (report from Sarah Jane Shangraw)

From the time of the Publications Commission meeting in early June 2014 through the end of May 2015, AMS Books released 5 titles—more than any year since the program formalized in 2006—and sold more print units through both the University of Chicago Press (UCP) and its own online bookstore than in any year previous. We have been backfilling older and even previously out-of-print books and monographs in eBook formats into SpringerLink and to [springer.com/ams](http://springer.com/ams); we are preparing to load our recent frontlist in eBook formats into our own and UCP's online bookstores. (Moving forward, new books will be distributed both in print and as eBooks through both the AMS and UCP; Springer Nature will distribute the backlist only.) Finally, our books garnered several reviews and awards over the past year, and we have an important history of science book in the pipeline about how big science came to Boulder.

### Recent Releases

- *The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change*, by Robert Henson
- *Father Benito Viñes: The 19th-Century Life and Contributions of a Cuban Hurricane Observer and Scientist*, by Luis E. Ramos Guadalupe, translated by Oswaldo Garcia
- *Climate Conundrums: What the Climate Debate Reveals About Us*, by William B. Gail
- *An Observer's Guide to Clouds and Weather: A Northeastern Primer on Prediction*, by Toby Carlson, Paul Knight, and Celia Wyckoff
- *Hurricane Pioneer: Memoirs of Bob Simpson*, by Robert H. Simpson and Neal M. Dorst

**Table 4: Total print unit sales, AMS and UCP:**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
AMS	1565	1793	1304	1125	1145	1111
UCP	342	755	1322	2005	2108	3102
Total	1907	2548	2626	3125	3235	4213

### Improved print unit sales with new AMS online bookstore:

5/2013–5/2014 (Previous online store platform): 846

5/2014–5/2015 (New online store platform): 991                      Increase of 17%

### Number of AMS eBook titles available by end of 2015:

AMS and UCP                      Current: 0                      By Fall 2015: 9

Springer Nature                      Current: 39                      By Fall 2015: 89                      Total by end 2015: 98

## Reviews and Author Interviews

Our books have appeared in: *USA Today*, *CMOS Bulletin*, *Choice Journal*, *Reports for the National Center for Science Education*, *The Observer* (National Hazards Center), *Boston Globe*, and *Physics Today*.

## Awards

*The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change* by Robert Henson won a New England Book Show Award in the General Trade/Illustrated category, for “design, quality of materials, and workmanship,” and an Association and Publishing Media EXCEL Award for “best writing, content, design, photographs, and overall packaging of a non-technical book.”

## In the Pipeline

Coming in October: *A Scientific Peak: How Boulder Became a World Center for Space and Atmospheric Science*, by Joseph P. Bassi.

## 9. Publications Commission Makeup and Council Appointment Requests

The AMS Publications Commission currently consists of the 13 Chief Editors, 1 monograph Editor, the Editor in Chief and Chair of the BAMS Editorial Board, the Chief Editor of the *Glossary of Meteorology*, the Chair of Meteorological and Geophysical Abstracts, three at-large members, and AMS staff. AMS journals currently have 89 Editors across the 10 journals (exclusive of BAMS). Appendix A shows the current status of our Editorial Boards of all journals. Editors agreeing to another term beginning January 1, 2015 are tagged in green. Editors whose terms are expiring but haven't made decisions about continuing as of June 1, 2014 are in red. Editors retiring at the end of 2014 are in blue. New Editors as of January 2015 are in purple. We have appointed a few new Editors across the journals to cover increasing workloads or specific disciplines. With the PRSA model, adding new Editors has no financial implications for the AMS but expedites the workflow for the editors.

The Commission seeks Council approval for appointment or re-appointment for the following Chief Editors:

JTECH-O	William Emery*	Initial 3-year appointment to December 31, 2018
JTECH-A	Luca Baldini*	Initial 3-year appointment to December 31, 2018
JPO	Jerome Smith*	Initial 3-year appointment to December 31, 2018
GoM	Mary Cairns	2-year extension to December 31, 2017
WCAS	Amanda Lynch	2-year extension to December 31, 2017
At Large	David Jorgensen	2-year extension to December 31, 2017
At Large	Joe Klemp	2-year extension to December 31, 2017
At Large	Vanda Grubišić*	Initial 3-year appointment to December 31, 2018

\*The CVs of the new CEs and new at-large member, Drs. Emery, Baldini, Smith, and Grubišić, are attached as addendums to this report.

## 10. Journal Impact Factor Ratings

The table below shows that three of the top 10 journals in the most recent ranking of Thompson-Reuters Impact Factor® (and 5 of the top 20) in the category of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences were AMS titles. BAMS has continued its run with the sixth straight year being identified as the top-ranked AMS journal and one of the top 3 of all journals in the Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences category. Last year, a member of Council requested a more extensive look at the rate of change of impact factor of AMS journals relative to other non-AMS journals. The PC considered this request, but the cost to obtain the data was considered prohibitive, and since we could envision no concrete actions could be taken given the results, we decided not to pursue this study.

### Thompson-ISI Rankings — IMPACT FACTOR

'08 (N=52)	'09 (N=63)	'10 (N=68)	'11 (N=71)	'12 (N=74)	'13 (N=76)
1. BAMS	1. BAMS	3. BAMS	1. BAMS	2. BAMS	2. BAMS
3. JCLI	9. JCLI	6. JCLI	7. JCLI	5. JCLI	6. JCLI
8. JAS	10. JPO***	10. JPO****	12. JPO^	6. JPO^^	8. JPO^^^
9. JPO**	13. JAS	14. JHM	14. JHM	14. JHM	14. MWR
9. JHM	14. JHM	16. JAS	18. MWR	20. MWR	15. JHM
13. MWR	20. MWR	18. MWR	20. JAS	24. JAS	21. JAS
23. JAMC	24. JAMC	26. JAMC	24. JTECH	31. JAMC	31. JAMC
26. JTECH	32. WAF	28. WAF	27. WAF	33. WAF	36. JTECH
35. WAF	35. JTECH	30. JTECH	34. JAMC	39. JTECH	43. WAF
				61. WCAS	63. WCAS

\*In Oceanography Category \*\* (N=50) \*\*\* (N=63) \*\*\*\* (N=59) ^ (N=59) ^^ (N=60) ^^^ (N=58)

*Earth Interactions*: 63/55 ('09); 61/170 ('11); 76/163 ('13)

## 11. Editor Awards

During the last year, AMS took responsibility for the peer review process of *Earth Interactions*, a joint online publication of the AMS, AGU, and AAG. Right now, EI does not grant Editor's Awards like all other AMS journals. The PC also oversees the *Glossary of Meteorology*, which has an extensive peer review process. The *Glossary* also does not currently grant Editor's Awards like the other AMS publications.

The Publications Commission requests that Council approval an Editor's Award for EI and an Editor's Award for the *Glossary of Meteorology* be established beginning in 2016.

The list of 2015 Publications Commission nominees for Editor's Awards is shown in Appendix B. In 2008, Council approved two additional Editor's Awards to be used to provide balance between large and small journals so that reviewers in the large journals had an approximately



equal chance of earning an Editor's Award. To further improve the equity of awards across journals, in 2009 Council approved a further change in the number of Editor's Awards to maximum of five distributed in the following groups so that the total decisions in each group totaled approximately 500. Below is the distribution based on 2014 submissions and the journal groups that share an award:

JCLI = 858

JHM+JAS= 238+390 = 628

MWR+WAF = 408 + 148 = 582

JTECH+JPO=262 +279 = 519

BAMS+WCAS+JAMC=277+51+321 = 649

The Chief Editors of each group get together and decide on the awardee that will be given the award for that group. This gives reviewers in the larger journals a better chance of winning awards. The process continues to work well. Should the Council approve the requested awards for EI and the *Glossary*, these will also be included in the groups above in 2016. The Commission reviews the journal groupings each year and adjusts the groups to maintain balance in number of decisions in each grouping.

## **12. Editorial and Best Practices for Data Stewardship**

During the last year, the PC and the AMS Board on Data Stewardship set up an ad-hoc committee to establish best practice guidelines for the AMS Author's Guide for data archiving and data citation in AMS journals. The committee did its work and developed the guidelines, which were subsequently accepted by both the PC and the BDS. These were incorporated into the Author's Guide. The primary author, Matthew Mayernik, together with the Chair of the BDS, Mohan Ramamurthy, and the Publications Commissioner, published an editorial in all AMS journals in the April 2015 issues, describing these best practice guidelines. The editorial appears as Appendix C.

## **13. AMS *Glossary of Meteorology* and Educational Glossary**

It came to the attention of the PC that the AMS supports two glossaries. The first glossary is our free online *Glossary of Meteorology*, which is under the oversight of the AMS Publications Commission. The second is a book, with a 2nd edition published in 2014, edited by James Brey and Ira Geer titled the *Glossary of Weather, Climate and Ocean*. This simplified glossary is intended primarily for K–12 educators and non-scientists. A screenshot of the *Glossary of Weather, Climate and Ocean* is below. The PC discussed the fact that the AMS supported two glossaries. We understand the usefulness of the education glossary, but found it unusual that the *Glossary of Meteorology*, which is more comprehensive in meteorology and climate (but does not cover oceanography) is free to the public, yet the AMS charges \$30.00 for a simplified glossary for educators. We referred the issue to the Executive Director and the Education department, since the Publications Commissioner does not directly oversee Educational materials.



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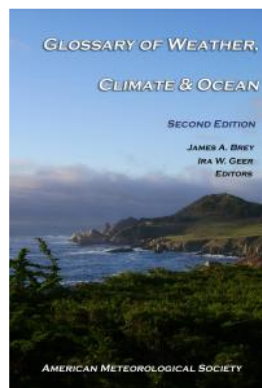
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## 14. JAS Editorial and Progress toward an AMS Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosols

In September 2013, the PC recommended, and the Council approved, a plan to make a focused effort to redevelop an interest within the chemistry and aerosol community in publishing in JAS. We agreed that if we can stimulate sufficient interest in the atmospheric chemistry community to publish in JAS, the plan is to then consider splitting off a new atmospheric chemistry and aerosol journal.

To that end, the PC added Renyi Zhang, Professor at Texas A&M University and head of the AMS STAC committee on chemistry, as an editor in 2014. Renyi and Sonia Kreidenweis from Colorado State immediately set out to organize a special collection of atmospheric chemistry papers for JAS. The special collection is titled “Aerosol–Cloud–Climate Interactions.” The topics will include but not be limited to (1) CCN and IN properties of aerosols and their impacts on clouds, precipitation, circulation, and climate; (2) aerosol–radiation interactions; (3) aerosol–cloud interaction parameterizations in large-scale models; and (4) cloud processing of aerosols. The expected submissions will be about 30, with the proposed time frame for initial submissions December 2014–December 2015. The Organizers are Jiwen Fan, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and Daniel Rosenfeld of The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This special collection is underway.

With the retirement of the current Chief Editor, K.K. Tung, at the end of 2014, we appointed two Co-Chief Editors of JAS, one a recognized expert in atmospheric dynamics, Prof. Walt Robinson, and the second an internationally recognized leader in atmospheric chemistry,

Professor Bill Brune. Both chief editors are fully supportive and engaged in the plan to make JAS a home for atmospheric chemistry papers, and to work toward future establishment of an AMS journal of atmospheric chemistry and aerosols. As part of this effort, the Chief Editors, together with the Publications Commissioner, published an editorial in the January 2015 issue of JAS informing our authors and readers of the plan. The editorial appears below as Appendix D. We are continuing to work to encourage special collections and garner interest in publishing chemistry and aerosol papers in JAS.

### **15. Author Guidelines for Plagiarism and CrossCheck Use**

As reported in previous Council meetings, the PC has adopted the use of CrossCheck, a text similarity checking tool, across all of the journals and BAMS. The tool has been extremely effective in helping Chief Editors and Editors detect gross plagiarism and self-plagiarism within our publications. It has become clear from the CrossCheck report results that many of our authors, including international authors, do not understand what is and is not acceptable concerning plagiarism. To clarify this, a committee of the PC, led by David Schultz, Chief Editor of MWR, wrote an editorial that was published in the February 2015 issue of all the journals. The information is also now in the Author's Guide. We hope that this will reduce the incidence of plagiarism in our submissions. The editorial is included as Appendix E.

### **16. BAMS Article on Publications in 45 Beacon St.**

The BAMS article detailing the efforts that have been made to streamline the publication process and reduce costs appeared in 45 Beacon St in the October 2014 issue.

### **17. PC Action to Reduce Tail of Distribution on Time to Initial Decision**

As noted in Sec. 3, the PC, at Council's urging in the September 2014 Council meeting, undertook a study to examine the outlier papers in the time to initial decision. A member of the Council raised the point that it was the tail of the distribution, not the mean, that had the most influence on author perception of AMS publications. The complete study is included as Appendix F. The outcome of the study is straightforward—the tail of the distribution is unacceptable. As a result of this study, the PC is taking these actions to eliminate the tail:

- 1) The Commissioner, together with the Chief Editors, will revise the AMS Editor's Guide to clearly state expectations for Editors to insure that the goals for time to first decision and final decision are understood.
- 2) The PRSAs will notify the Chief Editor anytime a paper handled by an Editor passes 90 days, and again in 10-day increments. The Chief Editors will monitor Editor performance, and in the event of consistent non-performance, discuss the issue with the Editor, and take further action as is deemed necessary.
- 3) A non-performing Editor can be timed off by Chief Editors by no longer assigning papers and retiring the Editor at the end of his/her term, while immediately appointing a new Editor.

As part of implementing these changes, the old method of assigning a start date for appointment for Editors will be changed from the traditional January 1 start date to an open start date. Editors shall serve a 3-year appointment during which papers will be assigned and continue beyond three years until all peer review for all papers in the 3-year appointment period are complete. This allows flexibility in bringing on new Editors in the event an Editor has to be replaced or timed out.

### **18. Request to Council to Increase Authorship Potential of WCAS (REQUIRES COUNCIL ACTION)**

WCAS is now in its seventh year as an AMS journal. In 2013, WCAS had 73 submissions. In 2014, the number reduced to 51. The PC strongly supports the goals under which WCAS was created and was concerned about this precipitous drop in submissions. To help us understand this drop, we enlisted Marshall Shepherd to poll several of his colleagues who have used WCAS in the past for their opinions about the journal and why potential authors in the social sciences have not embraced WCAS as a journal in which to publish their work. Below are Marshall's findings:

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*AMS Colleagues,*

*I was asked to participate on a call regarding my experiences with WCAS. I am a big supporter of the journal, and an even bigger fan of my friend/colleague Professor Lynch now leading the journal. I am housed in a Geography Department with several social scientists that have attempted to publish in WCAS. Several of them provided feedback to share. I also solicited input from the WAS\*IS Facebook group, which has over 600 social and physical scientists. Many of which publish or read WCAS. I have included 4 anonymous blurbs headed by my synthesis of the issue.*

#### **A. Upfront Costs, Hassle, and Journal Prominence**

*Feedback 1: "Below is my exchange with WCAS. As you can see, they agreed to the reduced charge but \$750 is not insubstantial for me. I suspect if I wanted a full waiver, it would be a more drawn out process. I hate having to deal with the financials up front. I am willing to pay to get something into BAMS because of its prominence. I will not submit to WCAS again. I just don't have the funds to pay for every paper I submit. I think its a good journal but not of such prominence that its worth using up my limited funds. I will seek other journals which are more understanding of the financial reality of most social scientists."*

#### **B. Confusing Process and Having to "Ask"**

*Feedback 2: "Although I have found WCAS to be the most generous with regard to the waivers for publication fees (certainly relative to other AMS journals), the process is not always clear-cut about how to actually estimate page and color charges or about how to apply for the waiver (for either WCAS or other AMS forums). I find a way to plod through the process, but am never*

*sure I have done it correctly. And ....the process of stating the reasons for the waiver is regularly a humbling one for me. But a big part of this request, though, is the normative status for psychology journals and it is just hard to say anything other than this. That is, in psychology, the vast (say 95%) majority of the journals do not make page charges...and I steer clear of those that do. I don't keep \$\$ on hand to pay for page charges."*

### **C. Color charge confusion**

*Feedback 3: "we did have run into some rigmarole with them. I think that is where they would allow the reduced cost, but we would have to pay color, and it ended up being cheaper to pay the full cost and not pay color. (How much does color really cost the journal now...)"*

*2nd author: "We only tried for a partial waiver because the full waiver process is fairly lengthy and frankly, they don't make it easy to get. It's a bit less difficult than other AMS journals but not by much. We needed a color figure and the partial waiver that was granted required us to pay for color. It ended up being slightly less expensive to just pay the full page charges. Even paying a partial waiver may be very difficult for many social scientists that might be doing this sort of research. I think that WCAS offers a very important outlet for research at the intersection of social science and meteorology/climate, and hopefully it will not be eliminated. I think it is important for the AMS to be a leader in the push for a weather ready nation, and I see WCAS as an important part of the equation from the research side. That said, I can't imagine how difficult and frustrating it is for those who aren't used to dealing with AMS journals to navigate the waiver process."*

### **D. Social Sciences and Page Charges**

*Feedback 4: " I have always really liked WCAS because it seemed to be one of the few journals that "gets" the social science contribution to climate/weather sciences. As you are aware, it is often hard for social scientists to pay for publication. I cannot think of one purely social science journal that has publication fees, so this is often weird (difficult) to those not familiar with this model. Anyway, I think this is all stuff you are aware of, so let me know if I can help any further. Thanks for working on this! Does NSF still allow the inclusion of publication fees? For some reason, I feel like they were moving away from this too."*

*Additional feedback from WAS\*IS member: "I believe it is thorough and does a good job in ensuring quality. The AMS page charges overall are high. Without grant funding, it is a challenge to cover a typical length paper. I haven't tried the route to waive the charges. As an author, I wish you didn't have to make a payment decision before a decision is made, but I can understand why it is necessary."*

*I hope this synthesizes some of the issues that are at play.*

*Marshall Shepherd*

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It was clear to the PC from this survey that the existence of page charges in WCAS is the primary reason that the journal has not experienced the growth we had hoped. Although we nearly always grant a full waiver to any author requesting it, the process itself of obtaining a waiver has been a deterrent to authors submitting their work. If we want to engage the social sciences to publish in AMS journals, we must take action to bring WCAS in line with competing journals in the social science arena. For this reason, the PC recommends that Council approve eliminating page charges for WCAS. This was discussed with the Executive Director at the PC meeting and has his approval.

**PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL:** The Publications Commission proposes publication charges for WCAS be eliminated.

### **19. Modification of Terms of Reference of AMS Journals to Help Clarify Journal Areas (REQUIRES COUNCIL ACTION)**

Two separate issues were raised at the PC meeting regarding the changing nature of papers being submitted that blur boundaries between AMS journals. The first is in regard to papers focused on downscaling of climate models and/or short-term regional to seasonal climate prediction. The journals affected are JCLI, JAMC, and MWR. Under the current TORs, many papers fit any of these journals, but nearly all are going to JCLI because of its high impact factor and author perception of the importance of the journal. This is despite the fact that many papers are actually applied science (and therefore more appropriate for JAMC) or related to forecasts and forecast models (and more appropriate for MWR). To help clarify for authors which journal is more appropriate for a topic, and to help Chief Editors of the journals more clearly communicate to authors why recommendations are being made to transfer papers between journals, the CEs of JCLI, JAMC, and MWR examined the current TORs and made adjustments to better clarify the scope of each journal. These changes require Council approval.

The second separate issue regarding TORs is related to WCAS. Assuming that page charges of WCAS are eliminated (see Sec. 18), the PC wants to be sure that papers appropriate for other journals, particularly JAMC, EI, WAF, do not migrate to WCAS simply to avoid page charges (note that EI does not have page charges but does have a flat fee paid by authors of accepted papers). The PC believed it was necessary to provide clear guidance in the TORs both so that authors have clear guidance as to what is appropriate for each of the journals and the Chief Editors have clear guidance when a recommendation is made to transfer a paper to another journal (since this will have financial implications for authors). The Chief Editors of WCAS, JAMC, WAF, and EI examined the TORs for their journals and recommend minor changes.

As a result of the examination of the TORs to address these two issues, the following modifications to the TORs are recommended by the PC. Council action is required to approve the modification to the proposed TORs.

**The current TORs are as follows:**

*Journal of Climate* (JCLI) publishes climate research and, therefore, welcomes manuscripts concerned with large-scale variability of the atmosphere, oceans, and land surface, including the cryosphere; past, present, and projected future changes in the climate system (including those caused by human activities); and climate simulation and prediction. Occasionally JCLI will publish review articles on particularly topical areas. Such reviews must be approved by the chief editor prior to submission.

*Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology* (JAMC) publishes applied meteorological research related to physical meteorology, weather modification, satellite meteorology, radar meteorology, boundary layer processes, air pollution meteorology (including dispersion and chemical processes), agricultural and forest meteorology, and applied meteorological numerical models. The journal also publishes applied climatological research related to the use of climate information in decision making, impact assessments, seasonal climate forecast applications and verification, climate risk and vulnerability, development of climate monitoring tools, urban and local climates, and climate as it relates to the environment and society.

*Weather, Climate, and Society* (WCAS) publishes scientific research and analysis on the interactions of weather and climate with society. The journal encompasses economic, policy, institutional, social, behavioral, and international research, including mitigation and adaptation to weather and climate change. Articles may focus on a broad range of topics at the interface of weather and/or climate and society, including the socioeconomic, policy, or technological influences on weather and climate, the socioeconomic or cultural impacts of weather and climate, ethics and equity issues associated with weather, climate, and society, and the historical and cultural contexts of weather, climate, and society. Because of the interdisciplinary subject matter, articles that involve both natural/physical scientists and social scientists are particularly encouraged.

*Earth Interactions* (EI) publishes in the electronic medium original research in the earth system sciences with emphasis on interdisciplinary studies. Within this framework, the journal particularly encourages submissions that address interactions among lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere in the context of global issues or global change. Beginning January 1 2014, *Earth Interactions* is a fully Open Access publication (free to all readers).

**Proposal to Council: The following TORs be adopted as the new TORS for the respective journals:**

*Journal of Climate* (JCLI) publishes climate research and, therefore, welcomes manuscripts concerned with advancing fundamental understanding of the dynamics and physics of the climate system on large spatial scales; past, present, and projected future variations in the climate system (including those caused by human activities); and climate simulation and prediction. Occasionally JCLI will publish review articles on particularly topical areas. Such reviews must be approved by the Chief Editor prior to submission.

*Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology* (JAMC) publishes applied meteorological research related to physical meteorology, weather modification, satellite meteorology, radar meteorology, boundary layer processes, air pollution meteorology (including dispersion and chemical processes), agricultural and forest meteorology, mountain meteorology, and applied meteorological numerical models. The journal also publishes applied climatological research related to the use of climate information in impact assessments, dynamic and statistical downscaling, seasonal climate forecast applications and verification, climate risk and vulnerability, development of climate monitoring tools, and urban and local climates.

*Weather, Climate, and Society* (WCAS) is a quarterly journal that encompasses economics, policy analysis, political science, history, and institutional, social and behavioral research that relates to weather and climate, including climate change. Contributions must include original social science research, evidence-based analysis, and relevance to the interactions of weather and climate with society. Opinion essays, book reviews and meeting summaries are not appropriate.

*Earth Interactions* (EI) is an on-line journal dealing with the interactions between the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere in the context of global issues or global change. It exploits the capabilities of digital technology and provides its authors the opportunity to use animations and other visualization techniques that traditional publications cannot accommodate.

## **20. Diversification of the Editor Pool**

At the previous Council meeting in September 2014, a question was raised as to how the PC recruits Chief Editors. A suggestion was made to advertise to increase the diversity of the pool. This item was discussed at the PC meeting in June 2015. The normal PC procedure for recruiting Chief Editors is to draw candidates from the pool of existing Editors. This makes sense for several reasons. First and foremost, we have a record of the Editor's performance and know that the Editor has the time, energy, and necessary skill to perform well in the Chief Editor role. The second is that the Editors are well versed with the AMS Editorial Manager system and experienced with working with PRSAs in moving along the review process. For this reason, we rarely go outside the pool of Editors or past Editors to recruit Chief Editors. When we do, it is for a specific reason, such as recruiting Bill Brune as Chief Editor for the chemistry and aerosol side of JAS. The PC believes that the best approach to achieving diversity in the Chief Editor pool is to first achieve diversity in the Associate Editor and Editor pool. We plan several steps to do this. The first is to publish an editorial asking for volunteers who wish to be considered as candidates for Associate Editor positions. Associate Editors serve the PC as "super reviewers," scientists ready and willing to review papers on short notice and with short turnaround and provide opinions of papers that have generated inconsistent or controversial reviews. We typically then nominate Editors from the Associate Editor pool, focusing on those Associate Editors who demonstrate promptness and care in the review process. We also plan to have a permanently placed notice on the AMS publications website seeking volunteers for Associate Editor positions. The PC believes that a "bottom up" approach will over a few years provide a diverse group of Associate Editors and Editors from which a diverse group of Chief Editors can eventually emerge.



## 21. Elimination of Page Charges for Comments

The PC recommended to the AMS publications staff that the charge for Comments be eliminated to encourage more discourse in AMS journals. Note that charges for Replies were eliminated starting in July 2012. Right now, the number of published Comments in AMS journals is small, typically 10–20 per year total, so the budget impact is minimal. The Chief Editors will be careful to insure that authors do not take advantage of this and try to publish articles as Comments to avoid page charges, but we believe that this will be rare and easily detected and stopped. The primary issue with page charges for Comments is that many potential commenters do not have funding to pay for the charges, since they do not have a grant on the topic. Having to use their personal or departmental funds for Comments discourages them from submitting. The budgetary impact of an increased number of “free” Comments will be more than outweighed by the benefits of improving scientific discourse. According to the Executive Director, this change does not require Council approval.

## 22. Best Practices for Use of Color

Approximately 10% of males and 1% of females suffer from some form of color blindness. To make papers more accessible for colorblind editors, reviewers, and readers of our publications, the PC is working on best practice guidelines to help authors make good color choices. When completed, these guidelines will be posted on the Author’s Guide web pages. In general, for colorized graphics, authors should carefully choose a color scale that reflects the underlying data, e.g., qualitative palettes for categorical data and sequential or diverging palettes for numeric data. Highly saturated and flashy colors should typically be avoided—especially the RGB rainbow palette is often a poor choice. An overview of strategies for color selection in meteorological visualization has been published by Stauffer et al. in BAMS. The article is Stauffer, R., G. J. Mayr, M. Dabernig, and A. Zeileis, 2015: Somewhere over the rainbow: How to make effective use of colors in meteorological visualizations. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, **96**, 203–216, doi:10.1175/BAMS-D-13-00155.1. The article is accompanied by an online palette creator at <http://hclwizard.org/>. Another well-established tool for exploring color palettes for maps is <http://ColorBrewer2.org/>, introduced by Harrower, M.A., and C. A. Brewer, 2003: ColorBrewer.org: An online tool for selecting color schemes for maps. *Cartogr. J.*, **40**, 27–37. [Available online at <http://www.albany.edu/faculty/fboscoe/papers/harrower2003.pdf>.]

Other resources can be found at

<http://www.climate-lab-book.ac.uk/2014/end-of-the-rainbow/>

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2004EO400002/abstract>

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v519/n7543/full/519291d.html>

We hope to have the best practices completed and posted on the Author’s Guide web pages by the end of 2015 or earlier.

### **23. Promoting AMS Publications—BAMS Papers of Note**

The *Bulletin* has for a long time published “papers of note.” The current standard practice is for the papers to be selected by the editorial staff of BAMS. The PC discussed how the broader editorial staff of all the journals could assist the editorial staff of BAMS in identifying papers of note, particularly those that might have broader appeal beyond our field, since news media often focus on these in BAMS in searching for newsworthy topics for articles. The PC is adding language to the Guidelines for Editors to make them aware that, when they accept a paper that can be a candidate for papers of note, they should inform the BAMS editorial staff at the time the paper is accepted.

### **24. Stricter Control on Content in Supplements to Articles Published in AMS Journals**

Supplements to AMS journals are currently not considered part of the publication of record. They are given a separate DOI and the way they are handled in review is inconsistent across AMS journals. Supplements were first permitted at a time when the paper version of the journal was considered the official publication of record and the electronic version was not. Supplements were introduced to allow authors to include material such as animations, computer codes, or extensive tables as a supplement to the electronic version. These were never intended to be required to justify the science in the article itself. The article is expected to be completely self-contained. We have a committee drafting clear guidelines for authors concerning supplements. This work is ongoing and will be posted on the Author’s Guide web pages when completed.

## Appendix A: Editorial Board Changes for 2016

*Updated June 25, 2015*

Robert M. Rauber, AMS Publications Commissioner

Continuing Editors are in black text. Editors agreeing to another term beginning January 1, 2016 are tagged in **green**. Editors whose terms are expiring, but haven't made decisions about continuing are in **red**. Editors retiring at the end of 2015 are in **blue**. New editors as of January 2016 are in **purple**. New and renewing CEs must be approved by Council.

### *JOURNAL OF THE ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES (15 EDITORS)*

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
<b>Walter Robinson</b>	<b>CE Phys/Dyn</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
<b>William Brune</b>	<b>CE Chem</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
Anne Smith	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Olivier Pauluis	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Ping Yang	Editor	4-2015	3-2017	Initial 2.6-yr term
Sukyoung Lee	Editor	9-2015	8-2017	Initial 2.3-yr term
Robert Fovell	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Sonia Lasher-Trapp	Editor	8-2015	7-2017	
Matthew Parker	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Renyi Zhang	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Wojciech Grabowski	Editor	2012	2016	2-yr extension
<b>Zhaohua Wu</b>	<b>Editor</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>
<b>Chun-Chieh Wu</b>	<b>Editor</b>	<b>7-2013</b>	<b>6-2017</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>
<b>Lorraine Remer</b>	<b>Editor</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
<b>Rolando Garcia</b>	<b>Editor</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Retiring</b>
<b>Ming Cai</b>	<b>Editor</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Retiring</b>

### *JOURNAL OF APPLIED METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY (9 EDITORS)*

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
<b>David A. Kristovich</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Initial 2-yr extension</b>
Bart Geerts	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Andrew Ellis	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Sandra Yuter	Editor	2012	2016	Initial 2-yr extension
Steve (Qi) Hu	Editor	2013	2017	Initial 2-yr extension
Paquita Zuidema	Editor	2013	2016	Initial 1-yr extension
Todd Sikora	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Andrew Jones	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
David Wolff	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term

**JOURNAL OF ATMOSPHERIC AND OCEANIC TECHNOLOGY (8 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Peter Chu (O)	CE Oceans	2009	2015	Retiring
V. Chandrasekar (A)	CE-Atmos	2011	2015	Retiring
William J. Emery (O)	CE-Ocean	2016	2018	Nom. New Chief 2016
Luca Baldini (A)	CE-Atmos	2016	2018	Nom. New Chief 2016
Kirsti Salonen (A)	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Steve D. Miller (A)	Editor	2012	2016	2-yr extension
Gustavo Goni (O)	Editor	7-2015	2017	Initial 2.5-yr term
Carlos Lozao (O)	Editor	7-2015	2017	Initial 2.5-yr term
David Fratatoni (O)	Editor	2010	3-2015	Retired
William J. Emery (O)	Editor	2011	2015	Retiring
Luca Baldini (A)	Editor	2012	2016	Retiring

**JOURNAL OF CLIMATE (19 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Tony Broccoli	Co-Chief Ed	2010	2016	2-yr extension
John Chiang	Co-Chief Ed	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Hisashi Nakamura	Editor	2016	2018	Initial 3-yr term
Oleg Saenko	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Steve Klein	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Tim Li	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Sharon Sessions	Editor	3-2015	2017	Initial 2.75-yr term
Mingfang Ting	Editor	7-2014	2016	Initial 2.5-yr term
John Walsh	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Joseph Barsugli	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Rosana Nieto-Ferreira	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Michael Coe	Editor	2012	2016	2-yr extension
Matt Barlow	Editor	7-2015	6-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Pierre Friedlingstein	Editor	2013	2015	Initial 3-yr term
Peter Clark	Editor	2013	2015	Initial 3-yr term
Judith Perlwitz	Editor	July 2013	2015	Initial 2.5-yr term
Aiguo Dai	Editor	2011	2015	2-yr extension
Brian Soden	Editor	2010	2015	1 yr extension
Tim Delsole	Editor	2010	2015	1 yr extension
Peter Gent	Editor	July 2013	7-2015	Retiring 7-2015
Kevin Walsh	Editor	2011	3-2015	Retired

**MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW (14 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
<b>David Schultz</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>
Hugh Morrison	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Dan Kirshbaum	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Yvette Richardson	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Hilary Weller	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Altug Aksoy	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Jeff Anderson	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Almut Gassmann	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Paul E. Roundy	Editor	2012	2016	2-yr extension
Ron McTaggart-Cowan	Editor	2012	2016	2-yr extension
Jenny Sun	Editor	2013	2017	2-yr extension
Pamela Heinselman	Editor	2013	2017	2-yr extension
Josh P. Hacker	Editor	2011	2016	1-yr extension
Carolyn A. Reynolds	Editor	2013	2017	2-yr extension
Todd Lane	Editor	2016	2018	Initial 3-yr term
Ryan Torn	Editor	2016	2018	Initial 3-yr term
Russ Schumacher	Editor	2016	2018	Initial 3-yr term
Matt Eastin	Editor	2016	2018	Initial 3-yr term
Peter Jan van Leeuwen	Editor	2016	2018	Initial 3-yr term
Pat A. Harr	Editor	2010	2015	Retiring
George Bryan	Editor	2011	2015	Retiring

**WEATHER AND FORECASTING (4 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
<b>Paul Markowski</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>
Philip Schumacher	Editor	2010	2016	2-yr extension
Brian Ancell	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Yuqing Wang	Editor	2013	2017	2-yr extension

**JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY (8 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Mike Spall	Chief Editor	2009	2015	Retiring in 2015
Jerome Smith	Chief Editor	2016	2018	Nom. New Chief
Jody Klymak	Editor	Sept 2013	2017	2-yr extension
Paola Cessi	Editor	2016	2018	Initial 3-yr term
Karen Heywood	Editor	2013`	2017	2-yr extension
Greg Foltz	Editor	Mar 2015	2017	Initial 2.75-yr term
Jim Lerczak	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Herle Mercier	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Jerome Smith	Editor	2007	2015	Retiring

**JOURNAL OF HYDROMETEOROLOGY (6 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Christa D. Peters-Lidard	Chief Editor	2012	2016	2-yr extension
L. Ruby Leung	Editor	2012	2016	2-yr extension
Andrew Wood	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
Faisal Hossain	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term
F. Joseph (Joe) Turk	Editor	2012	2016	2-yr extension
Steve Margulis	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term

**WEATHER, CLIMATE, AND SOCIETY (4 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Amanda Lynch	Chief Editor	July 2013	2017	Nom. 2-yr extension
David Letson	Editor	2012	2016	2-yr extension
Olga Wilhelmi	Editor	April 2015	2017	Initial 2.8-yr term
Henry Huntington	Editor	2014	2016	Initial 3-yr term
Kirstin Dow	Editor	2010	2015	Retired

**EARTH INTERACTIONS (2 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Rezaul Mahmood	Chief Editor	2010	2016	2-yr extension
Joseph Santanello	Editor	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term

**MONOGRAPHS (1 EDITOR)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Greg McFarquhar	Met. Mono.	2015	2017	Initial 3-yr term

**AT-LARGE COMMISSION MEMBERS (3)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Joe Klemp	At large	2007	2017	2-yr extension
David Jorgensen (PSPC chair)	At large	2013	2017	2-yr extension
Vanda Grubišić	At large	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	Initial 3-yr term
Robert Livezey	At large	2009	2015	Retired

**GLOSSARY OF METEOROLOGY (1 EDITOR)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Mary Cairns	Chief Editor	2013	2017	Nom. 2-yr extension

## EDITORIAL

### Data Archiving and Citation within AMS Journals

On 25 February 2015, the American Meteorological Society (AMS) posted in the AMS author guidelines a new set of recommendations for AMS journals titled, “Data Archiving and Citation.” These recommendations promote the archiving of data related to papers published in AMS journals and provide guidelines for how such data should be cited within AMS papers (<http://www.ametsoc.org/PubsDataPolicy>).

The AMS academic, government, and commercial sectors rely on the production, management, and distribution of data related to environmental phenomena. In the policy statement, “Full and Open Access to Data,” adopted by the AMS Council in December 2013, AMS affirmed its commitment to promoting full, open, and timely access to environmental data, associated metadata, and derived data products within the Earth System Science community. The accessibility of data related to scholarly publications was explicitly discussed in that statement, as follows: “the AMS expects all scholarly papers published in its journals to contain sufficiently detailed references to public sources of information (literature and data) and methodology such that independent research can test the paper’s scientific conclusions. This expectation assumes that the data and metadata upon which the conclusions are derived are properly cited and readily available to the scientific community.”

This new AMS recommendation is representative of a larger national and international movement toward increased access to scientific data. A number of other scientific publishers have also recently updated their publications policies to include data citation recommendations, including the American Geophysical Union, which updated its Data Publications policy in December 2013. In addition, AMS is an original signatory on a recent joint statement of commitment to expanding access to data that was developed by a group of publishers, data facilities, and consortia who make up the Coalition on Publishing Data in the Earth and Space Sciences (COPDESS, <http://www.copdess.org/statement-of-commitment/>).

The new AMS “Data Archiving and Citation” recommendation grew out of a joint effort between the AMS Board on Data Stewardship (BDS) and the AMS Publications Commission (PC). In early 2014, the BDS submitted a recommendation to the PC that more formal data citation best practice guidelines be developed and added to the AMS journals Authors Guide. After some dialogue between the two committees, a joint subcommittee of 11 people was formed to develop these guidelines: three members of the PC, six members of the BDS, one individual who sits on both committees (the Publications Commissioner), and the Journals Production Manager for AMS Journals. This joint subcommittee developed best practice guidelines for data citation, which after review by the Publications Commission were approved for use in AMS journals.

The new best practice guidelines are intended to enable readers of articles in AMS journals to identify and find the dataset(s) related to a given publication. The guidelines “encourage authors to archive their data in a repository that can ensure the longevity and continued utility of datasets.” They also provide a small number of examples of how to create formal citations to datasets. As the guidelines are implemented by authors within AMS journals, cases will certainly emerge of more complex or detailed datasets that are not



well addressed by the current recommendations and examples. Authors, editors, reviewers, and the AMS publications office should work together to ensure that solutions are found that meet the needs of both the author(s) and the broader scientific community. These challenging cases may be brought to the attention of the AMS editors or publications staff to spur the development of additional examples and iterative improvement of the recommendations themselves over time.

The development of these guidelines is both timely and beneficial. It dovetails with numerous other ongoing initiatives within scientific research, government, and funding institutions, and it helps to increase reproducibility and transparency of the scientific results and discoverability of the data produced by the AMS community.

*Matthew S. Mayernik*

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Data Archiving and Citation, AMS Board on Data  
Stewardship

*Mohan K. Ramamurthy*

Chair, AMS Board on Data Stewardship

*Robert M. Rauber*

AMS Publications Commissioner

## Appendix D: Editorial on Atmospheric Chemistry in JAS and the Potential for a New Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry

VOLUME 72

JOURNAL OF THE ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

JANUARY 2015

### Editorial

The *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences (JAS)* was created to publish “basic research related to the physics, dynamics, and chemistry of the atmosphere of Earth and other planets, with emphasis on the quantitative and deductive aspects of the subject.” As readers are no doubt aware, papers in atmospheric chemistry and aerosol science have slowly disappeared from JAS over time, as scientists have chosen other venues in which to publish their work. The decline in submissions to JAS occurred despite the fact that the AMS hosts a well-attended meeting on Atmospheric Chemistry at the AMS Annual Meeting every year.

The AMS Science and Technological Activities Commission (STAC) committee on Atmospheric Chemistry and an ad hoc Committee on Researcher Involvement commissioned by the AMS Council independently recommended to the AMS Publications Commission (PC) that the AMS make a concerted effort to reengage the atmospheric chemistry and aerosol community by providing a venue for the publication of scholarly work that would serve the needs of the community. Both committees recommended that the AMS set a goal of establishing a new Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosols.

After discussion within the PC and consultation with the AMS STAC committees for Atmospheric Chemistry, Cloud Physics, Planned and Inadvertent Weather Modification, Atmospheric Radiation, Climate Variability and Change, and Meteorological Aspects of Air Pollution, the PC recommended, and the Council approved, a plan to make a focused effort to redevelop an interest within the chemistry and aerosol community in publishing with the AMS. Our first goal is to work with the community to host special collections and other papers in JAS. To that end, the Council has, effective 1 January 2015, approved appointment of Co-Chief Editors of JAS, one coordinating submissions in Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosols, and one coordinating submissions in Physics and Dynamics. JAS has also added editors in the areas of chemistry and aerosols and will add additional editors if the demand arises. JAS encourages proposals for special collections in these areas.

The Publications Commission and the AMS Council welcome this renewed commitment and focus to provide a venue for the publication of scholarly work within the Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol community. We sincerely hope that as a result of the changes that we have made to the editorial staff of JAS, and the renewed commitment of the AMS to support the community in conferences as well as publications, the Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol community will embrace JAS as a publication venue to the degree that a new Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol journal will become viable and can be supported within the AMS suite of journals.

*Robert M. Rauber*  
AMS Publications Commissioner

*William Brune*  
Co-Chief Editor

*Walter Robinson*  
Co-Chief Editor

## EDITORIAL

### AMS Policy on Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism

One of the foundations of science is that published work be an original contribution by the named author or authors. As global science grows, more authors are encouraged to publish, more papers are being published, and the pressure to publish increases. Authors submitting manuscripts to the journals of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) must confirm to AMS that the work has not been published in other journals. As a requirement to enter peer review, authors also should have read and accepted the conditions of “Author Disclosure and Obligations” at [www.ametsoc.org/PUBSAuthorObligations](http://www.ametsoc.org/PUBSAuthorObligations). Items 5–7 discuss plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and fragmentation and are reproduced below.

5. It is unethical for an author to copy text, figures, or tables (i.e., plagiarize) from other work without attribution. Even self-plagiarism (or autoplagerism), defined as copying from previous work by the author, could be considered unethical as it may involve copyright infringement (i.e., as a condition of publication in AMS journals, authors are required to transfer intellectual property rights to the AMS—hence, authors no longer “own” previously published work).
6. Fragmentation of research papers should be avoided. A scientist who has done extensive work on a topic or a group of related topics should organize publications so that each paper gives a complete account of a particular aspect of the general study.
7. It is unethical for an author to publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one peer-reviewed paper.

The ease of searching the Internet and the desire to stop duplicate work from being published has led to resources available to publishers to identify possible plagiarism. Over the past three years, AMS has been experimenting with one of these resources: CrossCheck. CrossCheck is a similarity-detection product of CrossRef, which is a nonprofit collaboration of commercial and professional society publishers. CrossCheck uses the iThenticate software produced by iParadigms, which has also developed the similar service Turnitin for academic purposes. All manuscripts submitted to AMS journals now are processed through CrossCheck. The resulting reports are made available to the responsible chief editors of the journals.

To ensure consistent application of CrossCheck results across all journals, the Publications Commission formed a subcommittee to explore the standards for plagiarism and recommend guidance for the journals. This editorial summarizes those standards. The material below is intended to provide more specifics to items 5–7 above to clarify what is meant by plagiarism and self-plagiarism.

- 1) Effective communication in science requires clear and precise descriptions, often involving technical words and phrases. Duplication of technical words and phrases from other source material amounting to less than a sentence shall not be construed as plagiarism, in general.
- 2) Directly quoted material surrounded by quotation marks or indented as block quotes and cited to the original source is not considered plagiarism. There are some circumstances in which the use of quotations, particularly lengthy ones, may require permission from

a copyright proprietor. Direct quotation and acknowledgment of the source may avoid claims of plagiarism, but copyright issues should be considered separately.

- 3) Duplication of text from a nonpeer-reviewed source, provided that it was written by one of the authors of the submission (e.g., most conference preprints, project progress reports, personal or project websites, dissertations), will not constitute plagiarism, in general. (However, permission from a copyright proprietor may still be required.) In such cases, authors should disclose the prior informal publication of this work either as a citation in the text or as a mention in the acknowledgments if the past work is not publicly available.
- 4) Excluding items 1–3, duplication of unquoted text (either cited or uncited)—even if the similar text includes changed verb tense, different numerical values, and the use of synonyms, for example—is generally considered to be plagiarism and is unacceptable within AMS journals.
- 5) Self-plagiarism occurs when substantial amounts of text previously published by the same author are used without citation and without quotation. In practice, some similarity or duplication of text may be deemed acceptable (if properly cited), particularly when describing equations, data, or methods where similarity is essential to convey consistency across multiple papers or to convey precision. To avoid self-plagiarism, sections containing duplicate or similar text must (i) appropriately cite the original source to promote the primacy of the source and (ii) indicate that the text largely follows directly from that source [e.g., “The description of the dataset parallels that of Smith et al. (1980) as follows in the next two paragraphs.” or “The methods are the same as employed in Smith et al. (2008), and the following text is derived from there with minor modifications.”]. Editors will determine the acceptability of such cases of duplicate or similar text and may provide guidance to authors about how to avoid self-plagiarism.
- 6) How AMS peer-review editors handle such instances is left to their discretion. Severe cases may result in outright rejection of the manuscript with no chance for resubmission. Other actions may be taken as well. Minor cases may be pointed out to the author in the initial decision letter with the requirement that revisions be made.

Authors are encouraged to examine the reference material below that was used in the construction of the AMS policy on plagiarism.

*David M. Schultz*

Chair, Subcommittee on Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism  
Chief Editor, *Monthly Weather Review*

*Robert M. Rauber*

AMS Publications Commissioner

*Kenneth F. Heideman*

AMS Director of Publications

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- Spinak, E., cited 2014: Ethical editing practices and the problem of self-plagiarism. [Available online at <http://blog.scielo.org/en/2013/11/11/ethical-editing-practices-and-the-problem-of-self-plagiarism/>.]



## **Appendix F: PC Study on Time to First Decision across Journals 2014**

This document contains a series of histograms of times to initial decision and final disposition. The information in these histograms comes from the “final disposition” cohort used in the 2014 year-end reporting (3108 total manuscripts). The cohort contains articles and expedited contributions that received final dispositions in 2014, excluding “correspondence” manuscripts (i.e., editorials, comment/replies, corrigendum), manuscripts transferred out (manuscripts transferred into a journal are retained), and manuscripts withdrawn before being assigned to an editor.

Two EM fields, the days to first decision and final disposition fields used to create the year-end journal reports and tables were used to create most of the histograms. The days to first decision field is defined as the number of days elapsed between the initial submission date field (i.e. when the author has completed manuscript submission) and the date of first decision field. Similarly, the days to final disposition field is defined as the number of days elapsed between the initial submission date field (i.e. when the author has completed manuscript submission) and the “date final disposition set” field. For BAMS manuscripts, the days to either decision was calculated by using the “technical check completion date” field in EM. This step was necessary to exclude the time to approve proposals.

Of the manuscripts receiving a final disposition in 2014, 225 (7.2%) were rejected before the manuscript was sent to reviewers. For these histograms, only the days to first decision field was used. Since a final reject decision was made as the first decision, the dates these decisions were made should be the same, and therefore redundant.

20.3% of the rejected without review manuscripts received partial or full waivers, and the days to first decision includes the time to complete the waiver review process. Therefore another estimate of the days to first decision was computed. This measure is defined as the number of days between the “technical check completion date” field (since the waiver process occurs in the technical check time interval) and the first decision date.

Descriptive statistics and histograms are provided for each decision time measure in three categories: all manuscripts, manuscripts rejected before review, and all manuscripts excluding those rejected without review. The data used to compile these histograms is available upon request in a spreadsheet.

Prepared by:

Sharon Kristovich  
AMS Peer Review Support  
Senior Reporting Specialist  
skristovich@ametsoc.org

## All Manuscripts-Histograms and Descriptive Statistics

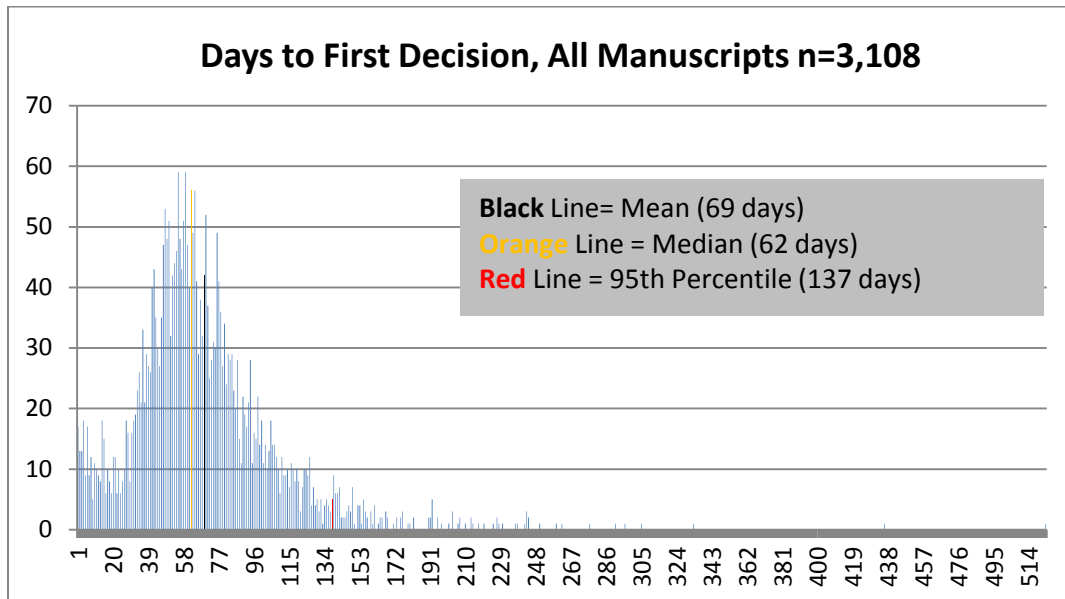
### Days to First Decision

#### *Days to First Decision –All Manuscripts*

Mean	68.5
Median	62
Mode	59
Standard Deviation	39.2
Minimum	0
Maximum	523
Count	3108
75th percentile	84
95th percentile	137

#### *Number/percent of manuscripts with waivers*

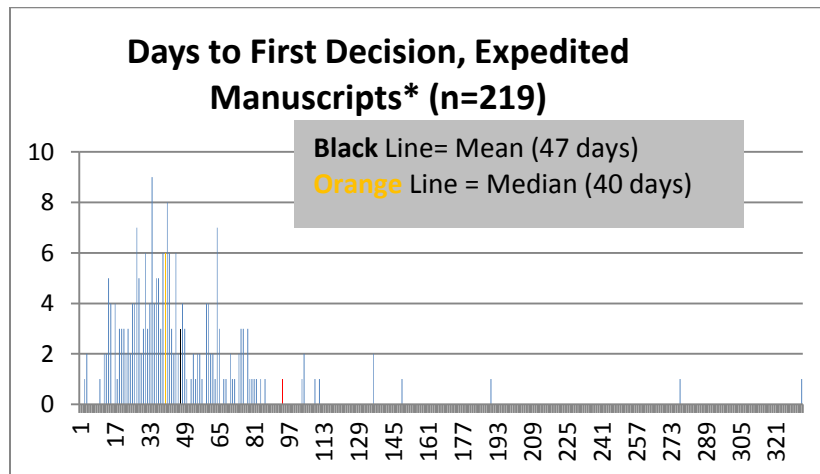
Waivers	Total	Percent (excluding BAMS)
Full	84	3.0%
Partial	163	5.8%
Total	247	8.8%



Note: 154 manuscripts exceeded the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (137 days), and 108 manuscripts (3.5%) had first decision days that were more than two standard deviations away from the mean (147 days).

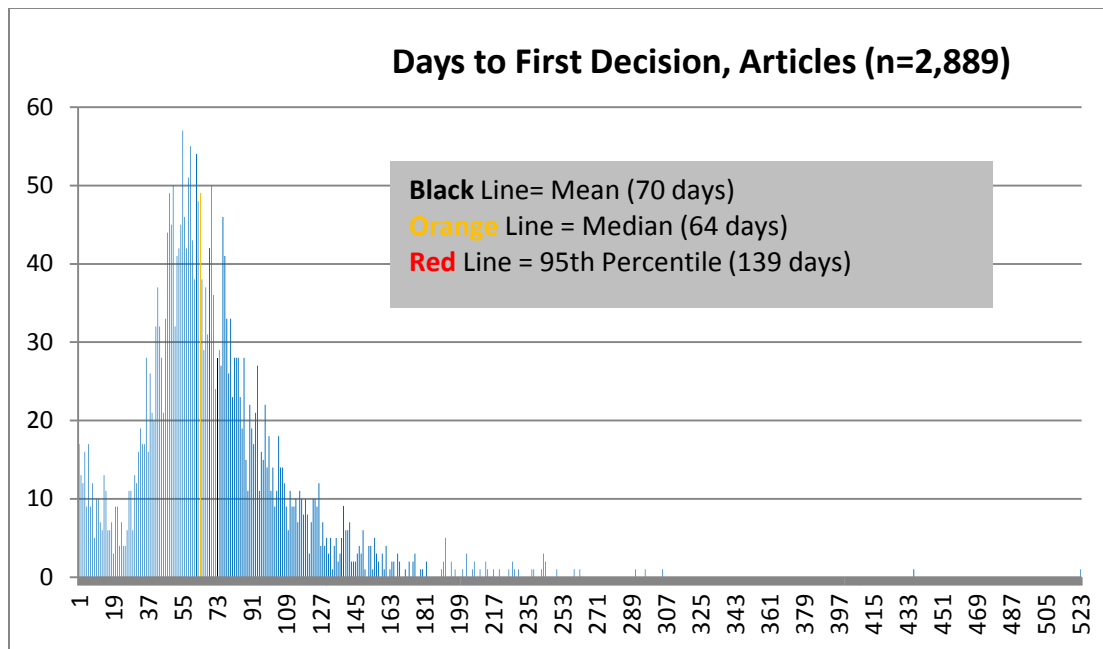
## Days to First Decision - Expedited Manuscripts and Regular Articles

<i>Expedited Manuscripts - Days to First Decision Date</i>		<i>Articles Only - Days to First Decision Date</i>	
Mean	47.1	Mean	70.1
Median	40	Median	64
Mode	34	Mode	55
Standard Deviation	35.9	Standard Deviation	38.9
Minimum	3	Minimum	0
Maximum	333	Maximum	523
Count	219	Count	2889
75th percentile	59	75th percentile	86
95th percentile	94.9	95th percentile	138.6



\*Expedited manuscripts include those converted to articles after the first decision

Note: 11 Manuscripts were above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (95 days), and 6 manuscripts were more than 2 standard deviations away from the mean (119 days)



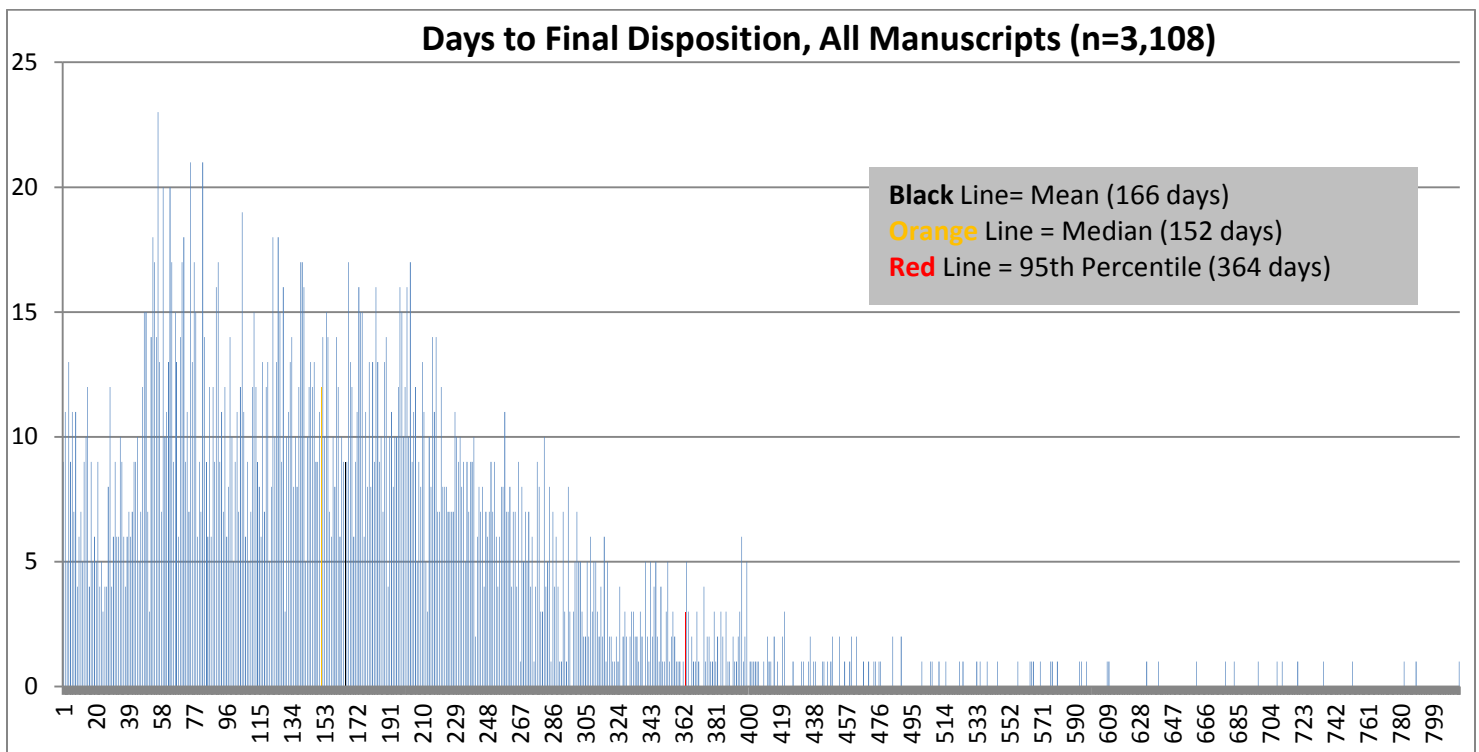
Note: 136 manuscripts were above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (139 days), and 101 manuscripts were more than 2 standard deviations away from the mean (148 days).



### Days to Final Disposition

#### *Days to Final Disposition*

Mean	165.5
Median	152
Mode	56
Standard Deviation	110.6
Minimum	0
Maximum	814
Count	
75th percentile	225.3
95th percentile	363.5



Note: 150 Manuscripts were above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (364 days), and 114 manuscripts were more than 2 standard deviations away from the mean (387 days)

## Rejected Before Review-Histograms and Descriptive Statistics

### Days to First Decision – Manuscripts

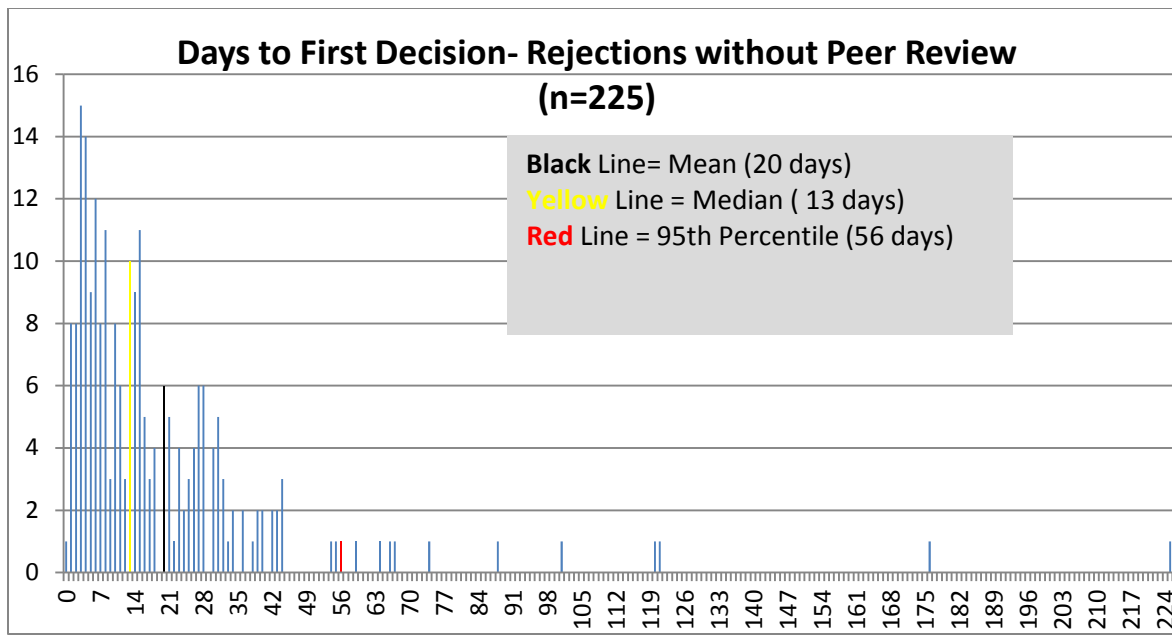
<b><i>Days to First Decision-All</i></b>	
Mean	19.7
Median	13
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	25.4
Minimum	0
Maximum	225
Count	225
75th percentile	26
95th percentile	55.9
Percentage of Manuscripts with Final Disposition	7.2%

### ***Number/percent of Rejected w/o Review manuscripts with waivers***

Waivers	Total	Percent (excluding BAMS)
Full	23	14.6%
Partial	9	5.7%
Total	32	20.3%

<b><i>Total and Average Days to First Decision by Publication</i></b>			
Publication Code	Total	%	Average Days to First Decision
JAMC	44	19.6%	21.7
JAS	17	7.6%	15.5
JHM	10	4.4%	21.4
JPO	6	2.7%	37.6
BAMS*	68	30.2%	15.4
EI	1	0.4%	25
JCLI	31	13.8%	25.8
JTECH	5	2.2%	17
MWR	24	10.7%	10
WAF	10	4.4%	25
WCAS	9	4.0%	15.8

\*Of the 68 BAMS manuscripts, 5 manuscripts were rejected when the submission was received and 63 proposals were rejected- all prior to any peer review



Note: 12 Manuscripts were above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (56 days), and 9 manuscripts were more than 2 standard deviations away from the mean (71 days)

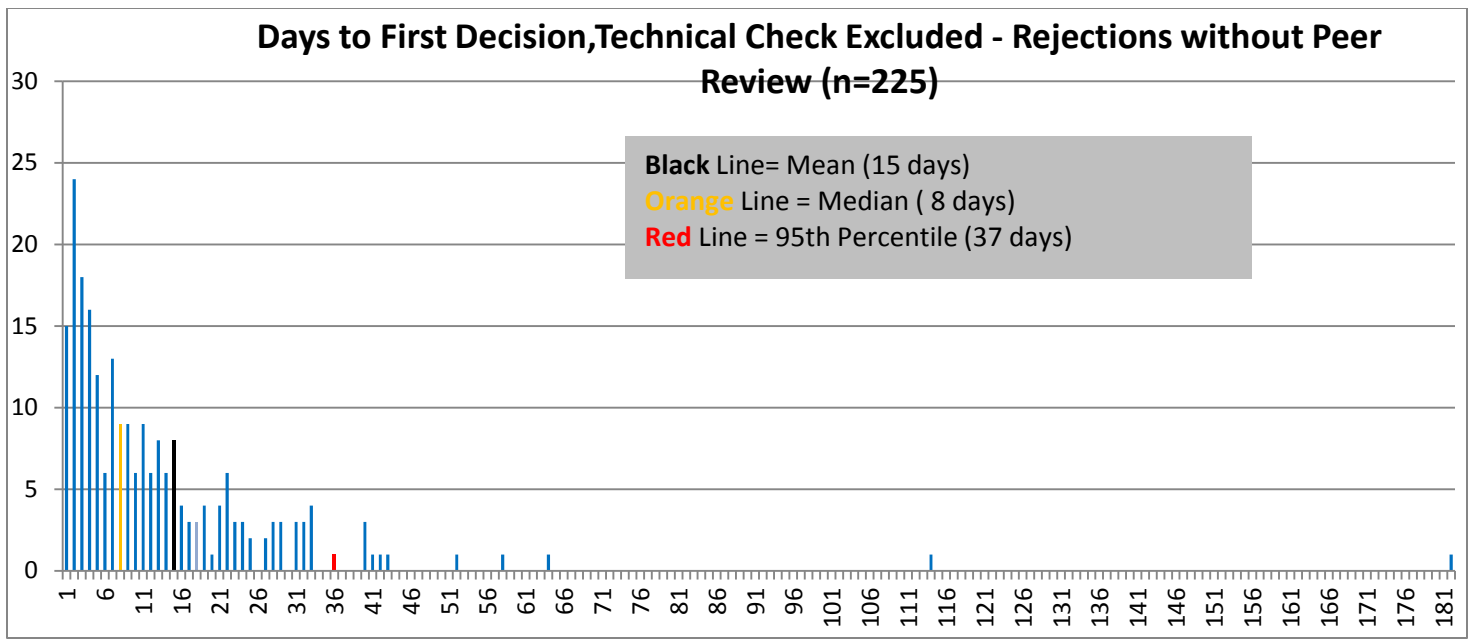
Days from Technical Check Completion Date to First Decision Date

***Days from Tech Check complete to First decision***

Mean	14.6
Median	8
Mode	1
Standard Deviation	39.5
Minimum	0
Maximum	550
Count	225
75th percentile	16
95th percentile	37.4

***Total and Average Days to First Decision by Publication***

Publication Code	Total	Average Days Technical Check-First Decision
JAMC	44	9.7
JAS	17	4.2
JHM	10	45.1
JPO	6	7.2
BAMS*	68	15.4
EI	1	7
JCLI	31	19.9
JTECH	5	14.6
MWR	24	3
WAF	10	9.2
WCAS	9	10.8



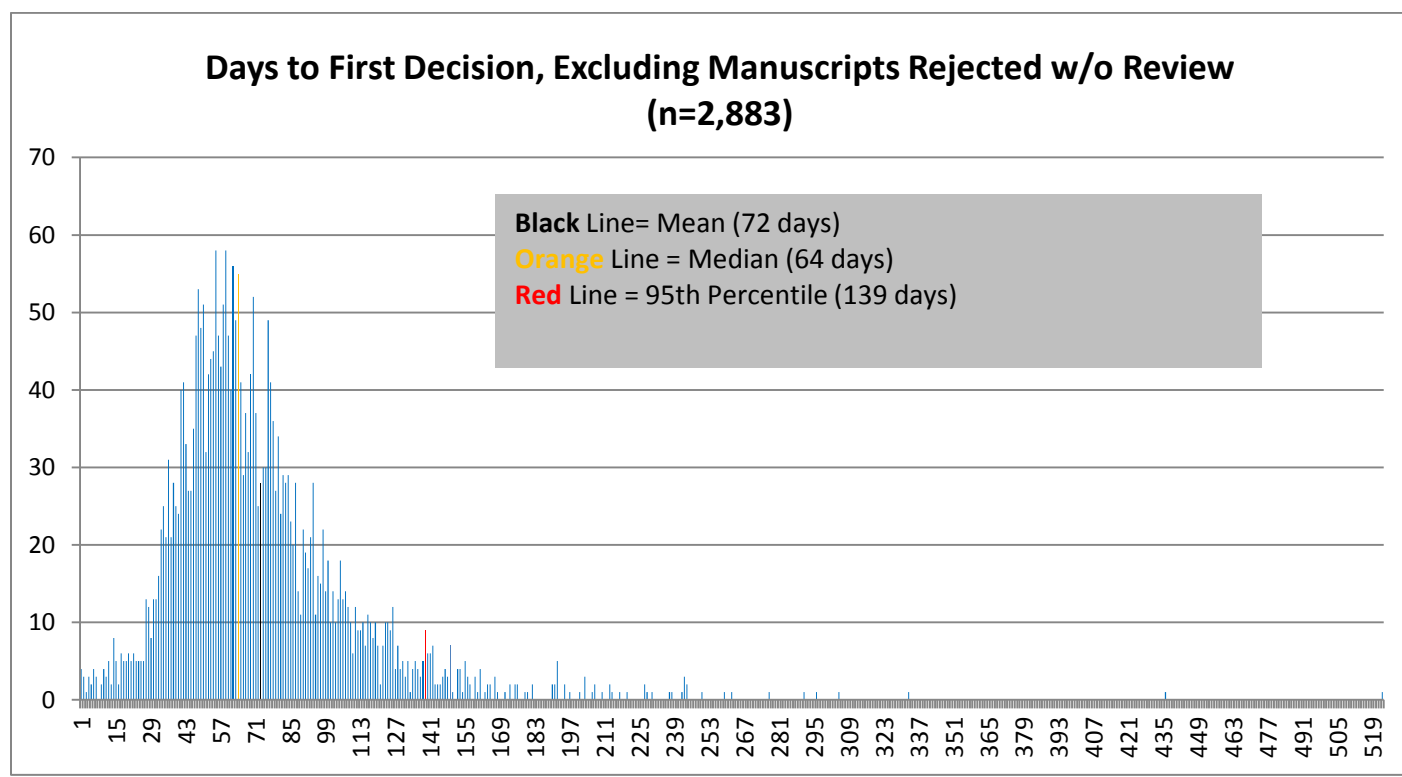
Note: 11 Manuscripts were above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (37 days), and 2 manuscripts were more than 2 standard deviations away from the mean (94 days)

## All Manuscripts, Excluding Reject without Review-Histograms and Descriptive Statistics

### Days to First Decision

*Days to First Decision Date-EXCL  
Reject w/o review*

Mean	72.3
Median	64
Mode	59
Standard Deviation	37.4
Minimum	0
Maximum	523
Count	2883
75th percentile	86
95th percentile	139

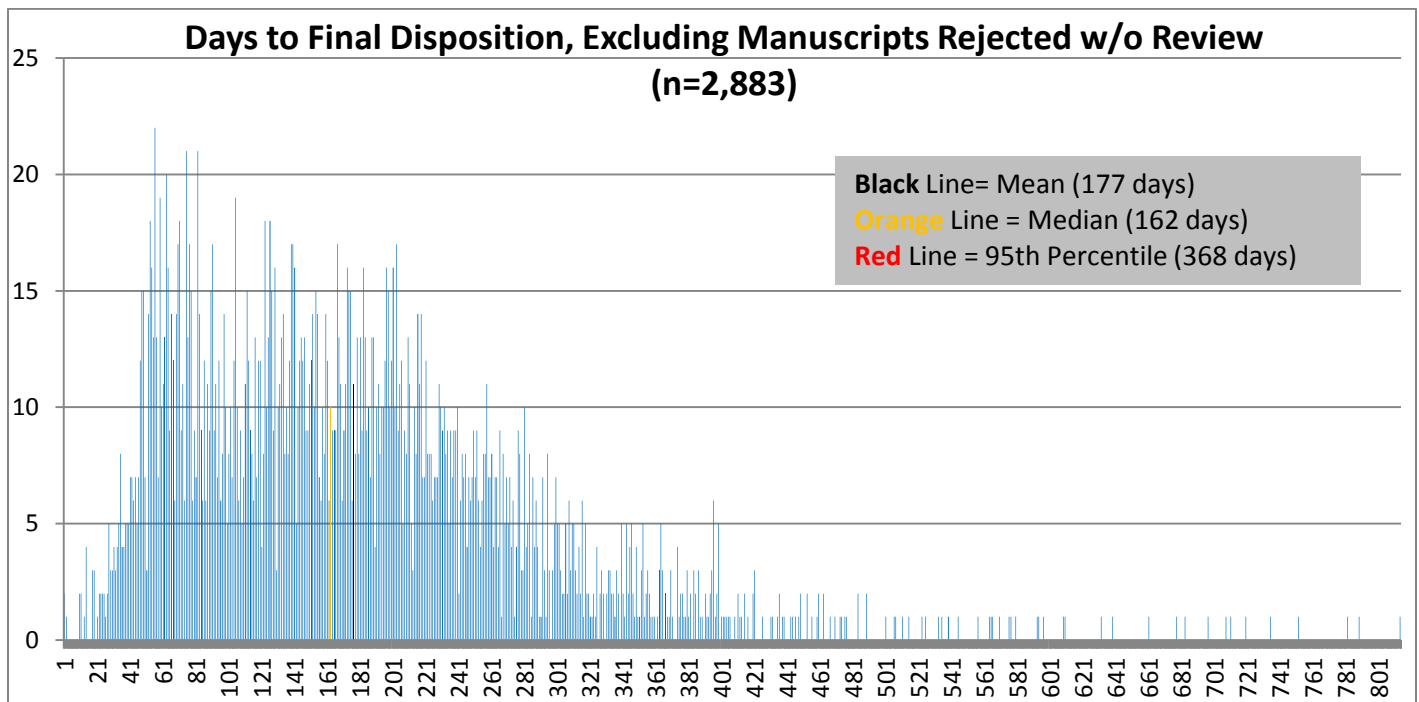


Notes: 1. The average days to first decision increased 4 days, and the median and 95<sup>th</sup> percentile increased 2 days manuscripts that were rejected without review were excluded from the cohort. 2. 137 Manuscripts were above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (139 days), and 105 manuscripts were more than 2 standard deviations away from the mean (147 days)

## Days to Final Disposition

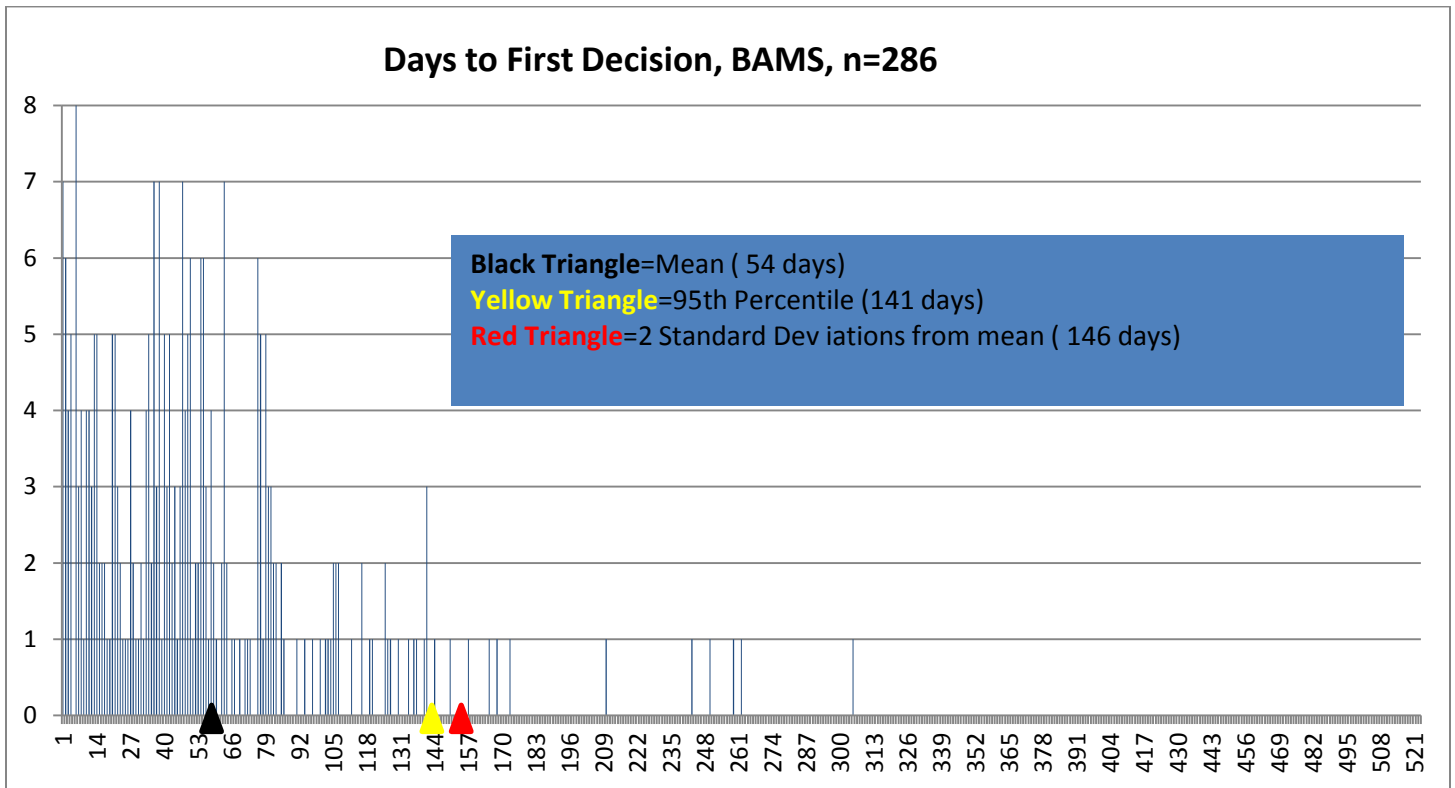
### *Days to Final Disposition-EXCL reject w/o review*

Mean	176.6
Median	162
Mode	56
Standard Deviation	106.5
Minimum	0
Maximum	814
Count	2883
75th percentile	232
95th percentile	367.9

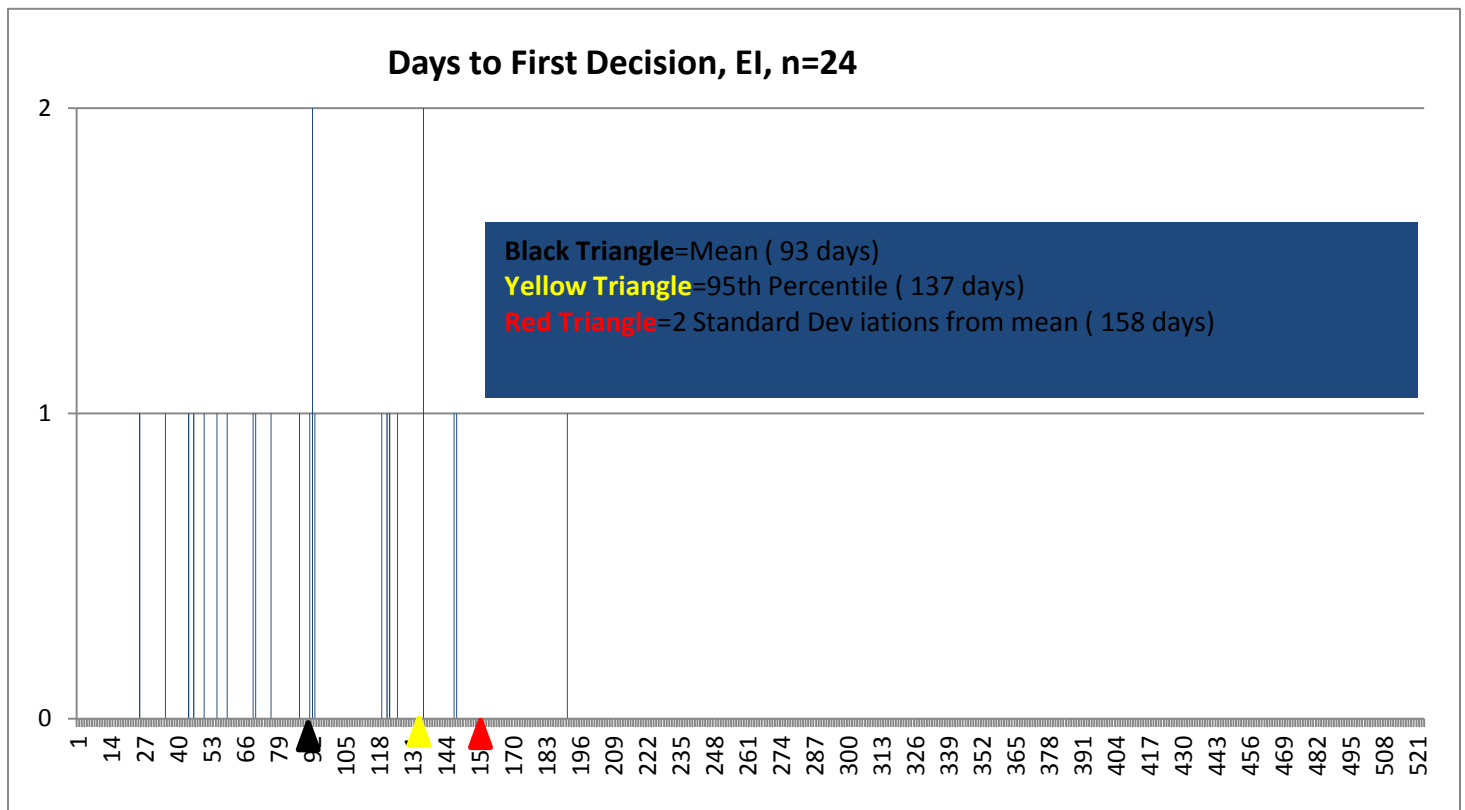


Notes: 1. The average days to final disposition increased 11 days, the median increased 10 days and 95<sup>th</sup> percentile increased 5 days when the manuscripts rejected without review were excluded from the cohort. 2. Note: 144 Manuscripts were above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (368 days), and 112 manuscripts were more than 2 standard deviations away from the mean (390 days).

## Time to First Decision Histograms by Journal

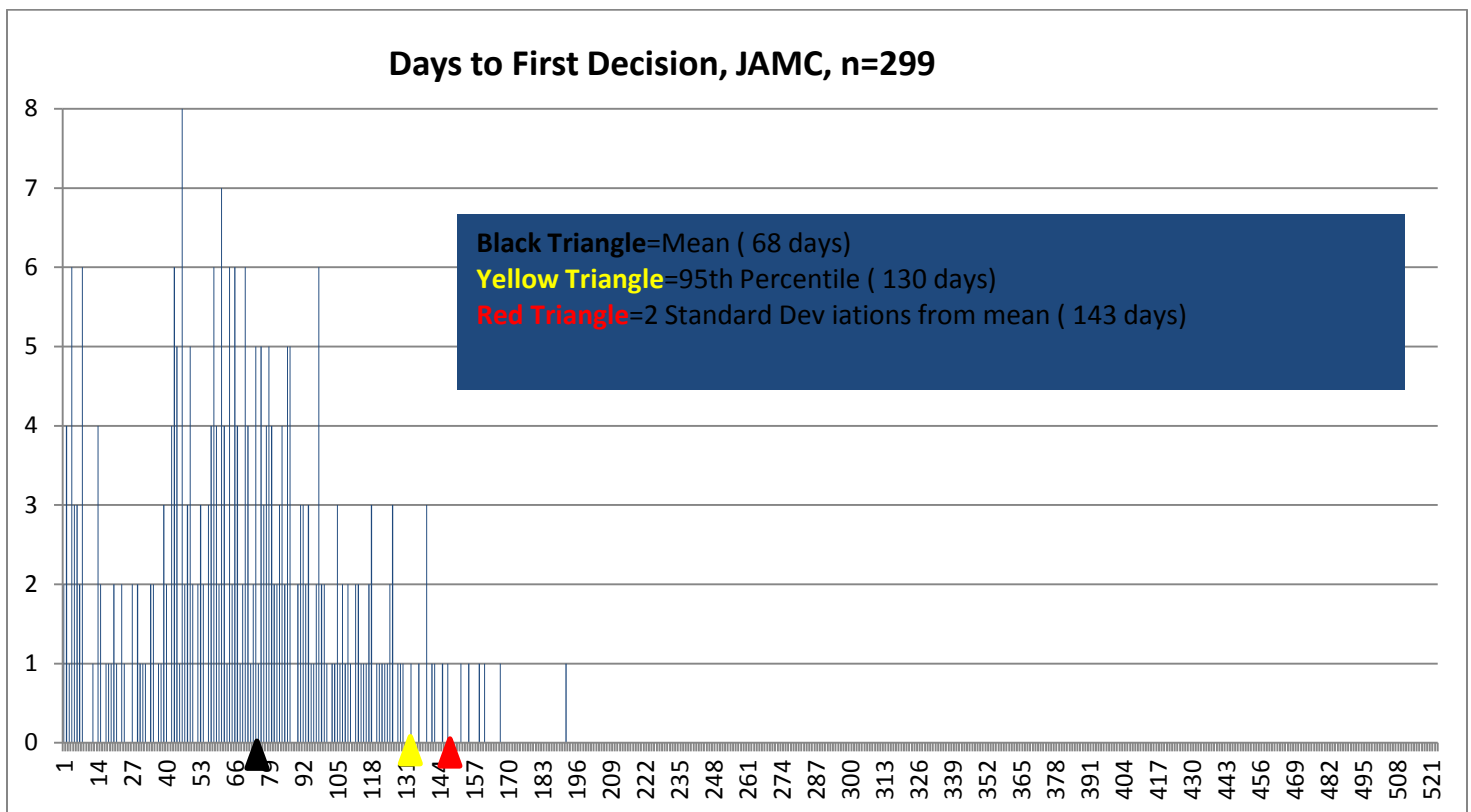


- 74% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- 12 manuscripts had days to the first decision greater than the 95th percentile (141 days).
  - One SME was assigned to 8 of these manuscripts, and four other editors were assigned to one each (The editor who made the final disposition was used to determine the handling editor/SME).
  - All but one was greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (146 days).

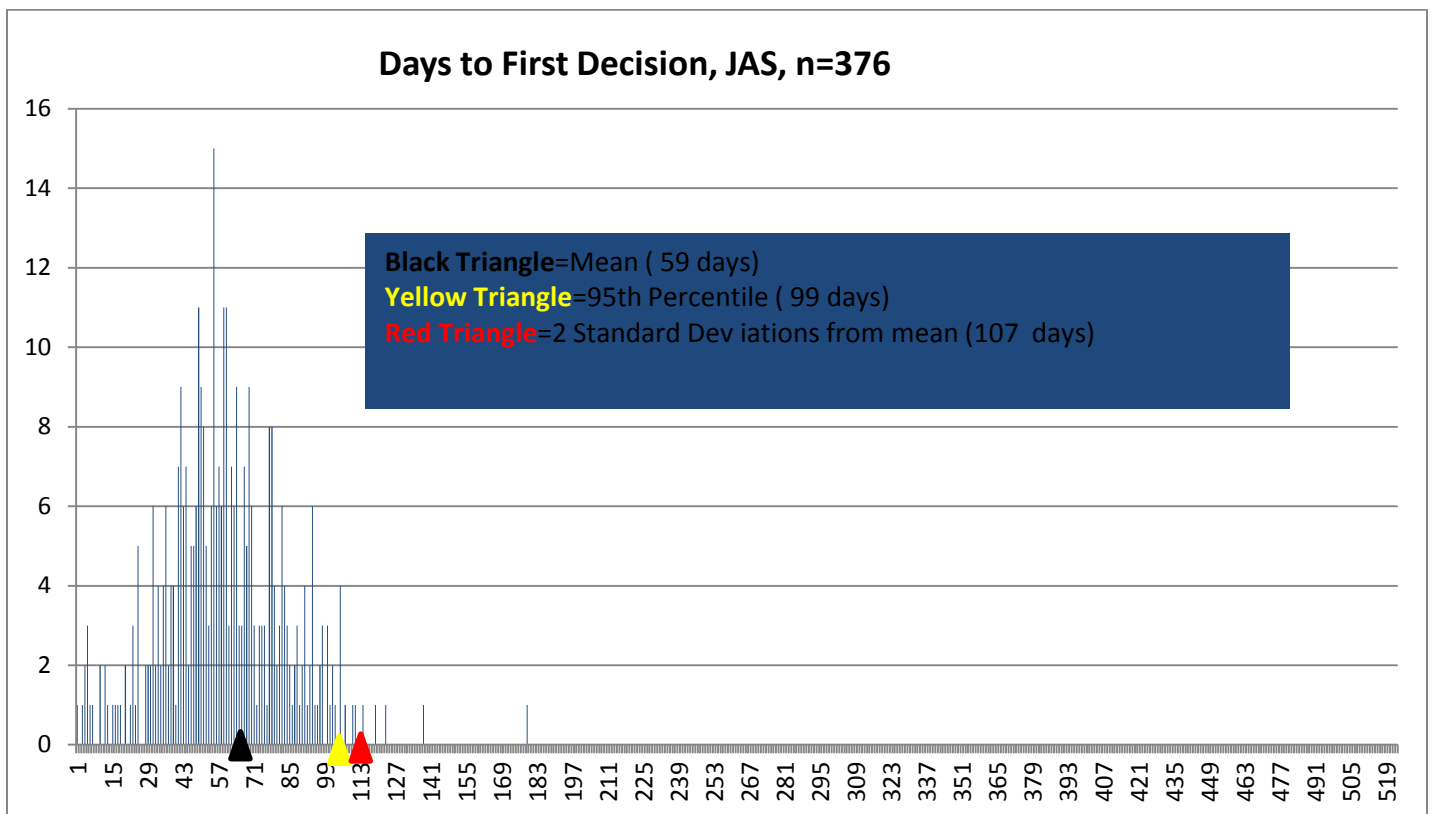


- 38% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- Three manuscripts had days to the first decision greater than the 95th percentile (137 days).
  - One manuscript was greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (158 days).

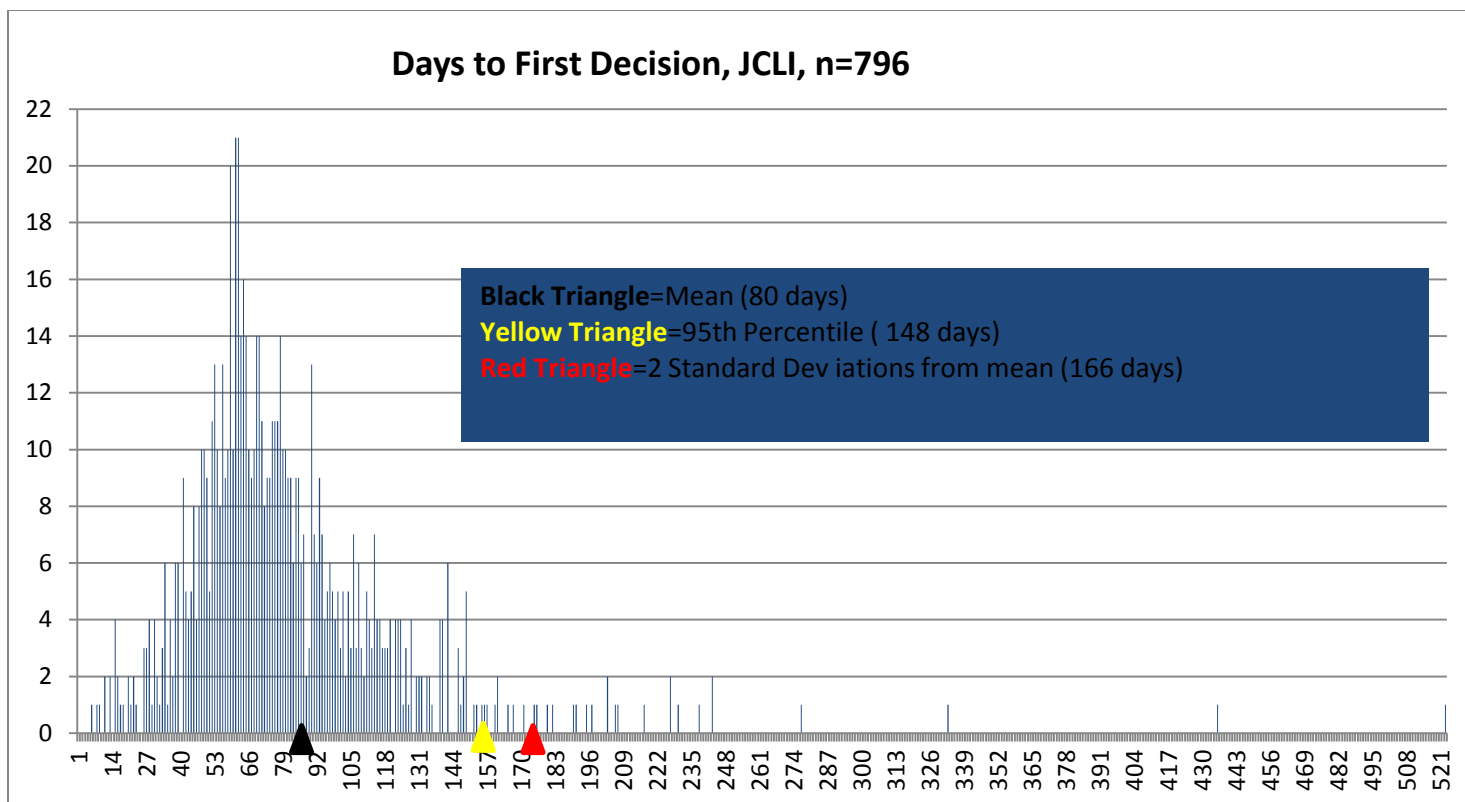




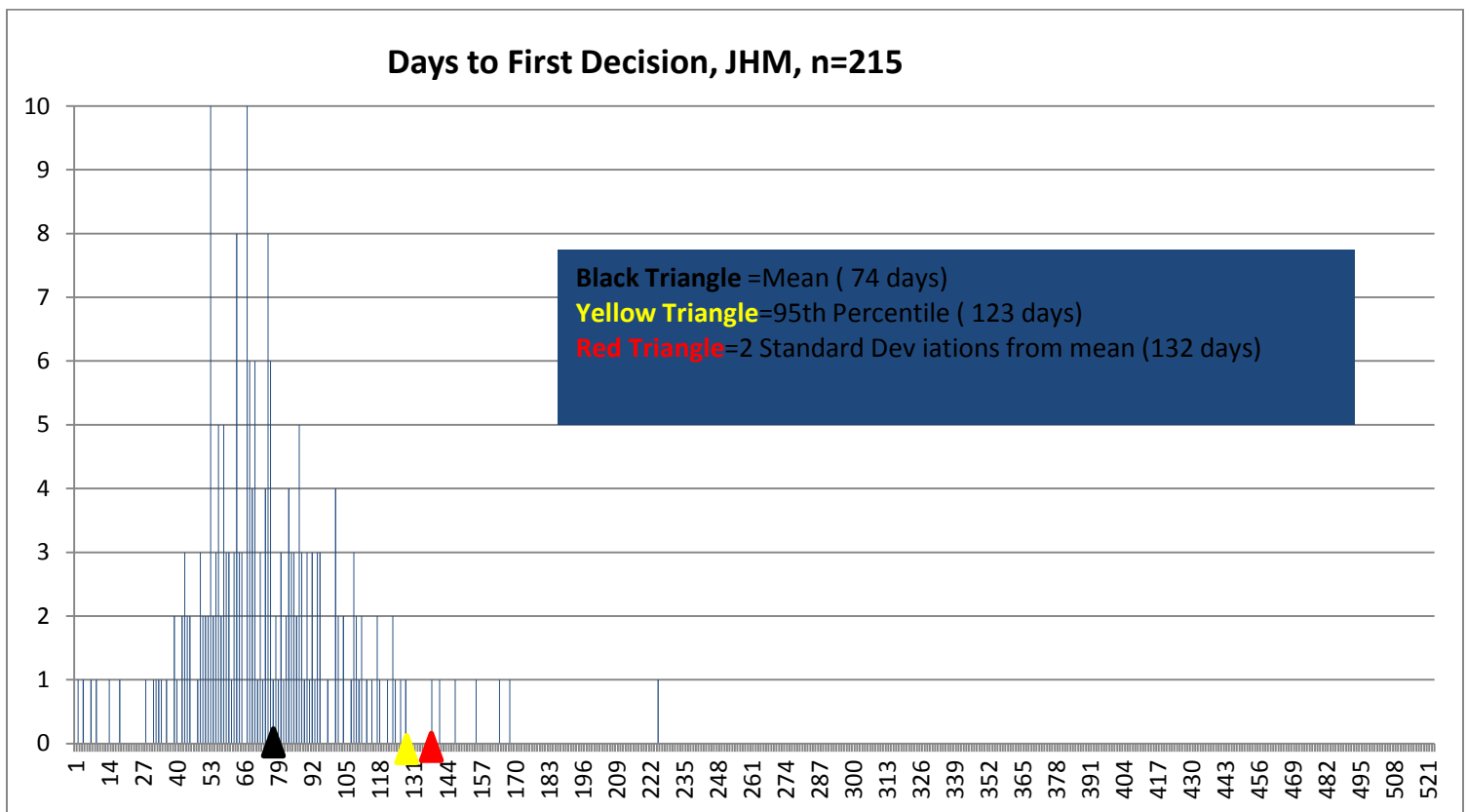
- 54% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- 15 manuscripts had days to the first decision greater than the 95th percentile (130 days).
  - Nine manuscripts were handled by retiring editors, and the remaining seven were handled by four active editors.
  - Eight (4 assigned to retiring editors) had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (143 days).



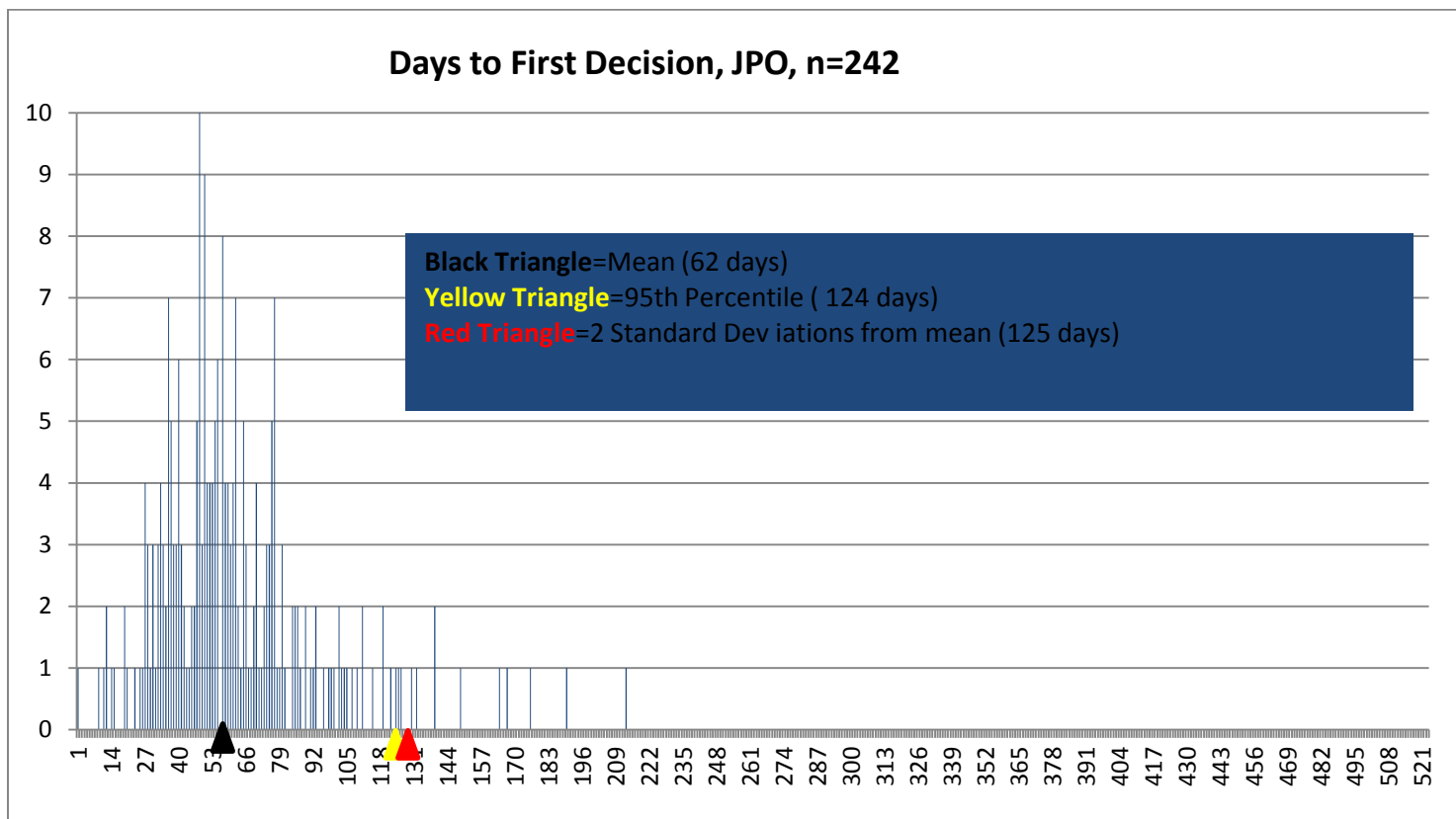
- 73% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- 19 manuscripts had days to the first decision greater than the 95th percentile (99 days).
  - Eight of these manuscripts were handled by retiring editors and remaining 11 manuscripts were handled by 6 active editors.
  - Seven (4 are retiring editors) had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (107 days).



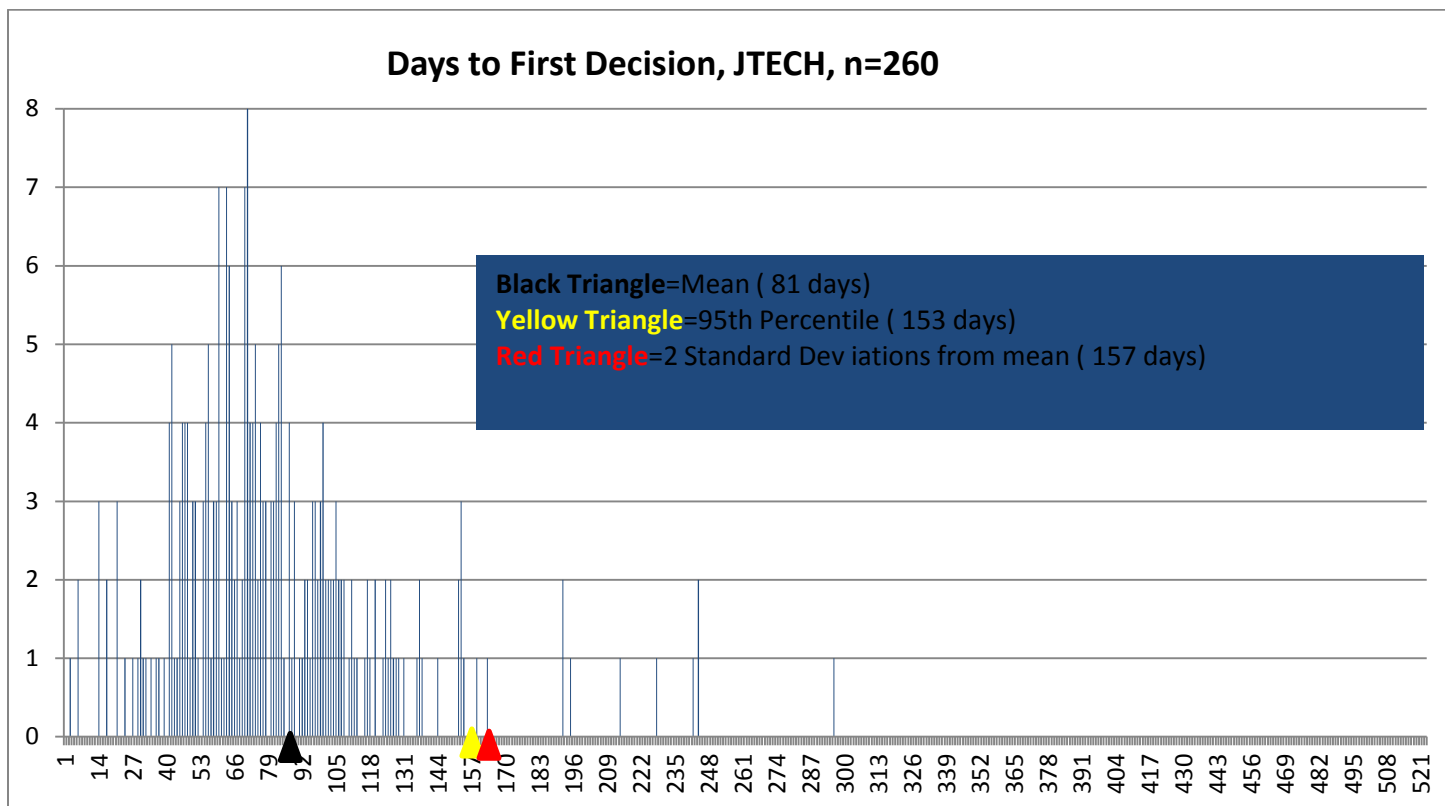
- 49% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- 39 manuscripts had days to the first decision greater than the 95th percentile (148 days).
  - Twenty of these manuscripts were handled by retiring editors, and the remaining 19 were handled by six active editors, with one editor handling eight.
  - Twenty-five (10 of these handled by retiring editors) had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (166 days).



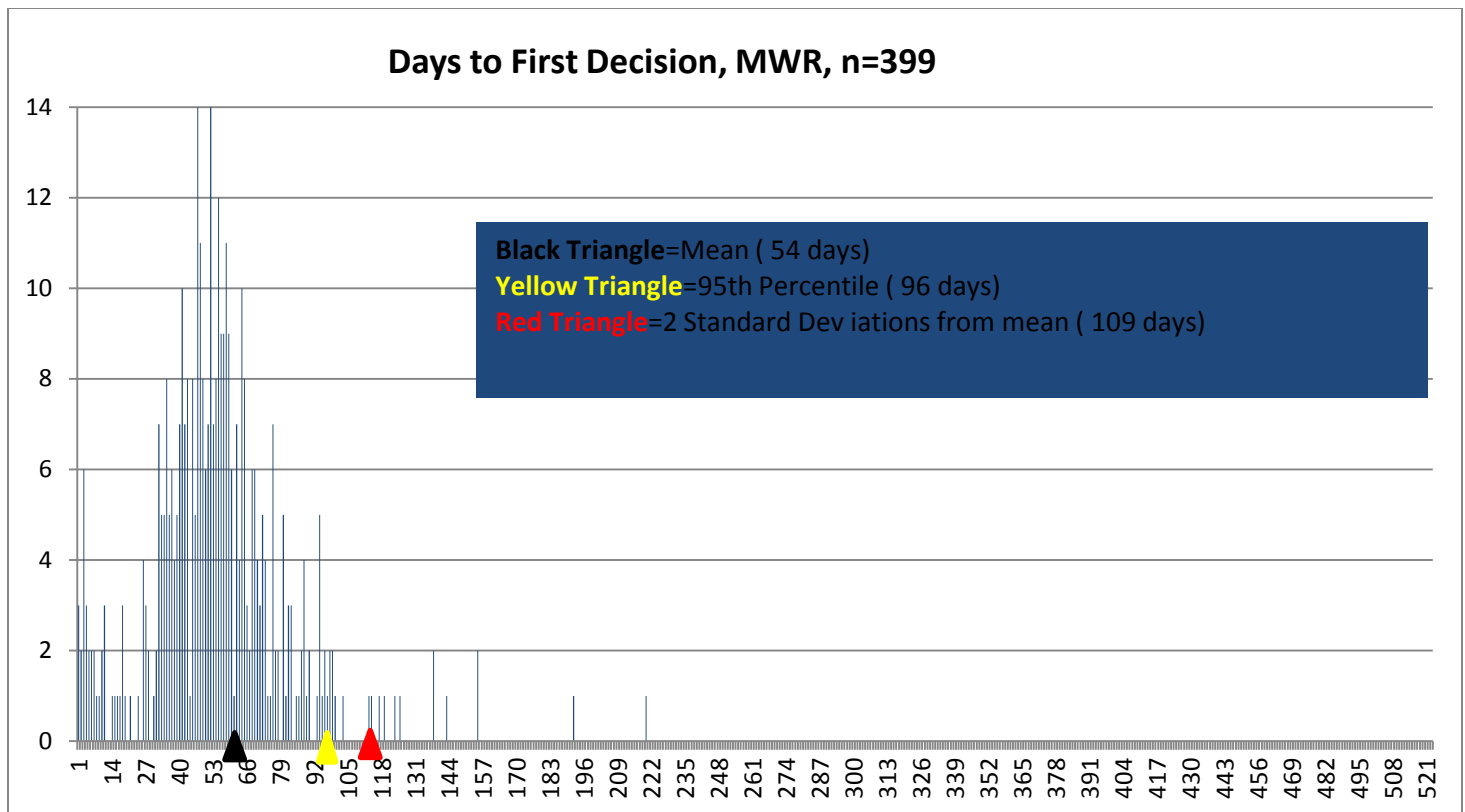
- 56% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- 10 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (74 days).
  - All of these manuscripts were assigned to active editors, with one handling five and a second handling 3.
  - Seven had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (123 days).



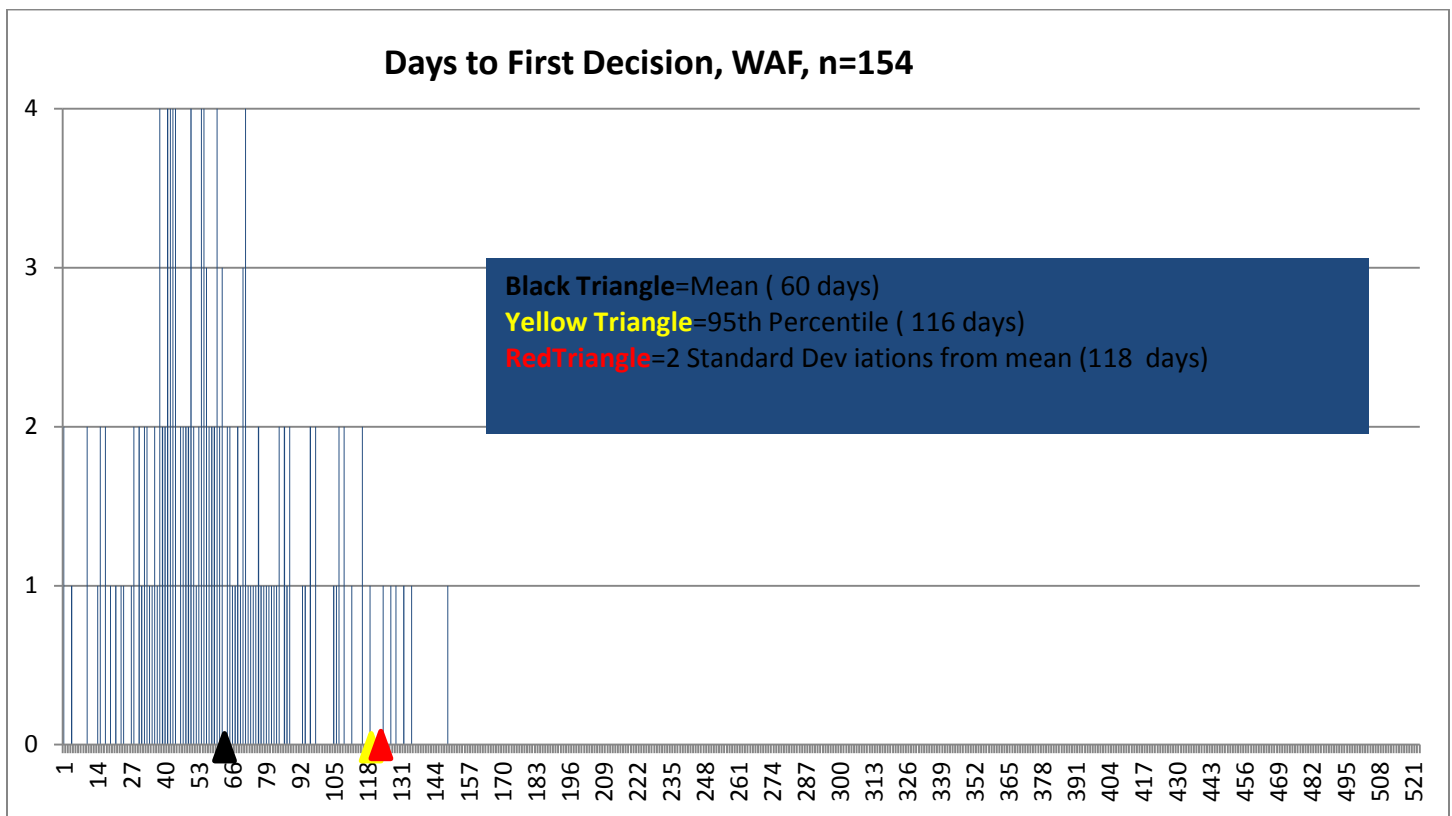
- 71% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- 12 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (124 days).
  - All but two were assigned to five active editors, with one handling 6 manuscripts.
  - Eleven manuscripts had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (125 days).



- 44% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- Twelve manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (153 days).
  - Ten were JTECH-A manuscripts assigned to one of two current editors, with editor assigned to eight of these.
  - The two JTECH-O manuscripts were assigned to two different current editors.
  - Eleven manuscripts had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (157 days).

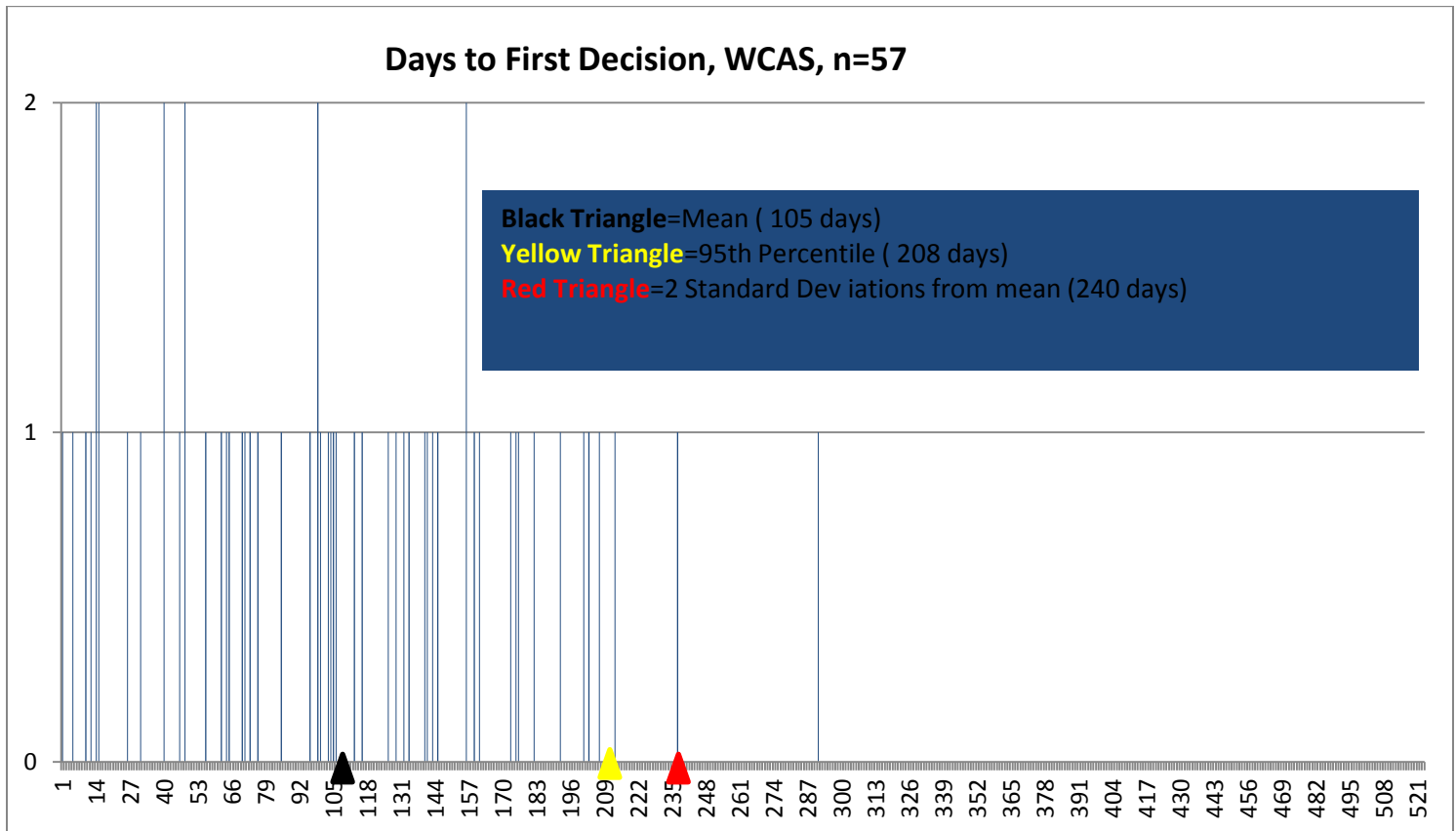


- 81% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- 20 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (96 days).
  - All but one of these manuscripts were assigned to six current editors, with one assigned to seven manuscripts, and another to five.
  - Three manuscripts had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (157 days).



- 68% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- 7 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (116 days).
  - All but two were assigned to three current editors, and the remaining two manuscripts were handled by a retiring editor.
  - All seven manuscripts also had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (118 days).





- 35% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- Three manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (208 days).
  - Two were assigned to one current editor. Only one of these manuscripts had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (240 days).

## Time to First Decision Outliers

- For this analysis, outliers were defined as the days to first decision greater than 100 days for the 2014 final disposition cohort.
- Using the timing data already prepared, average time in various editorial processes was calculated.
  - BAMS data, due to their unique proposal process, was excluded from the timings data.
  - Also, several EI manuscripts that began the editorial process with AGU were excluded.
- Distribution of time in editorial processes to first decision charts, and tables of average time spent in editorial processes are listed below.

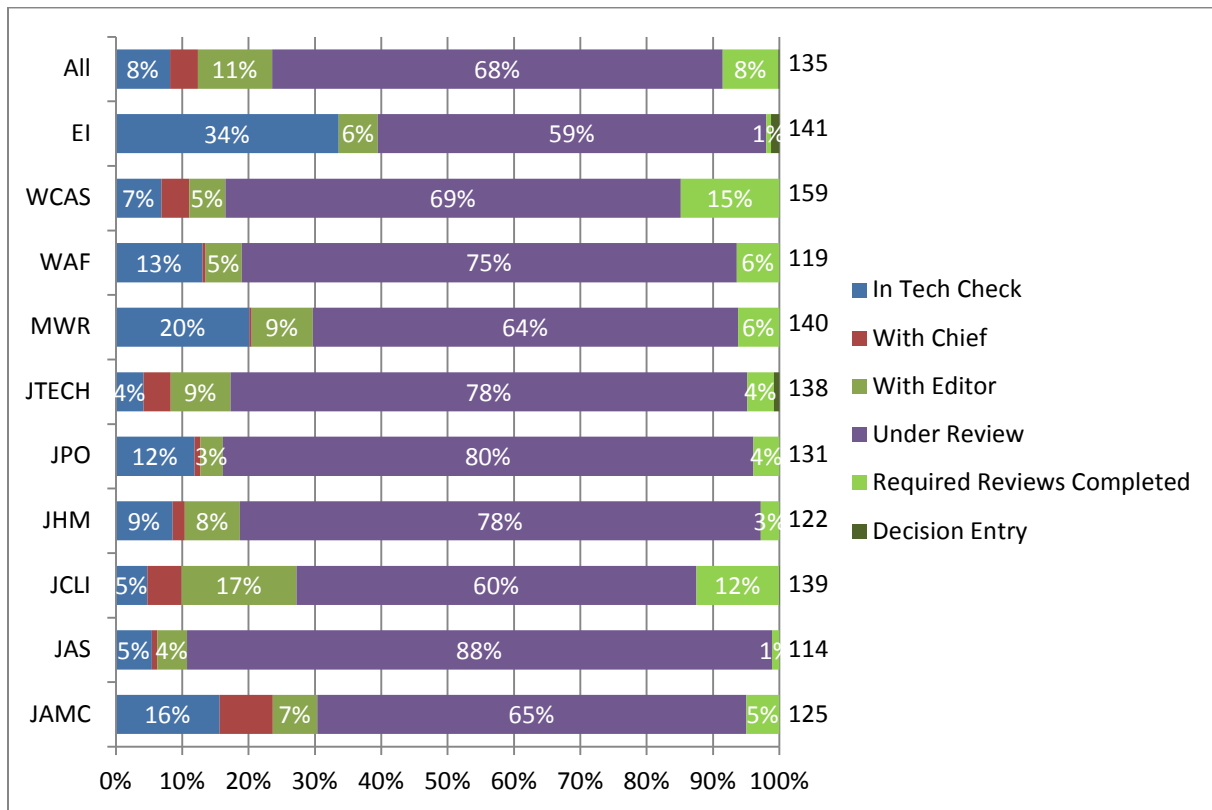
### Number of manuscripts by Outlier Category

Journal	>100 Days		<=100 Days	
	#	%	#	%
JAMC	53	17.7%	246	82.3%
JAS	16	4.5%	341	95.5%
JCLI	170	21.4%	626	78.6%
JHM	35	16.3%	180	83.7%
JPO	26	10.7%	216	89.3%
JTECH	60	23.1%	200	76.9%
MWR	14	3.5%	388	96.5%
WAF	16	10.3%	139	89.7%
WCAS	29	52.7%	26	47.3%
EI	8	33.3%	16	66.7%
All	427	15.2%	2378	84.8%

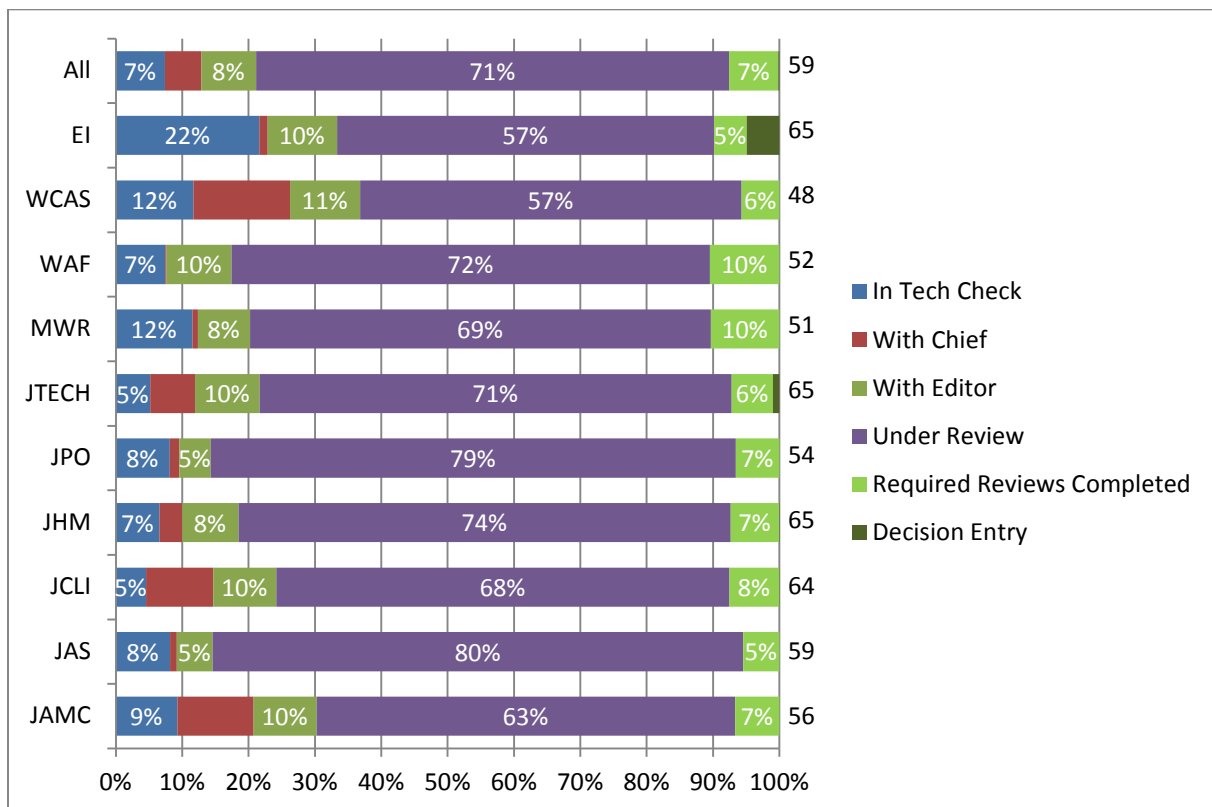
Some observations about the charts and tables:

- Charts: Overall, the percentage of time spent in editorial processes (charts):
  - Outlier manuscripts spent less percentage of time under review than non-outliers
  - Outlier manuscripts spent a slightly higher percentage of time “with editor”, both when initially assigned and after reviews were complete.
- Tables: Overall, outliers had higher average timings than non-outliers in the following editorial processes:
  - Tech Check - on average 7 days more
  - With Chief – on average 3 days more
  - With Editor – on average 10 days more
  - Under review – on average 44 days more
  - With Editor/Reviews Complete – on average 8 days more

## Outlier Timing Distribution



## Non-Outlier Timing Distribution



### Outlier Average time in Editorial Processes

	Average Days to Initial Decision	In Tech Check	With Chief	With Editor	Under Review	With Editor-Reviews Complete	Decision in Process
JAMC	125	19.6	10.0	8.4	79.5	7.5	0.0
JAS	114	6.2	0.9	5.1	100.8	1.3	0.0
JCLI	139	6.6	7.2	24.1	80.5	19.3	0.1
JHM	122	10.4	2.3	10.1	90.4	4.6	0.0
JPO	131	15.5	1.2	4.4	108.9	5.5	0.0
JTECH	138	5.8	5.7	12.5	102.4	6.7	1.1
MWR	140	28.1	0.4	12.9	73.7	8.7	0.0
WAF	119	15.5	0.6	6.5	88.7	11.1	0.0
WCA							
S	159	10.9	6.7	8.6	109.4	40.3	0.0
EI	141	47.1	0.0	8.3	93.9	1.1	1.8
All	135	11.0	5.7	15.1	88.8	13.3	0.2

### Non-Outlier Average time in Editorial Processes

	Average Days to Initial Decision	In Tech Check	With Chief	With Editor	Under Review	With Editor-Reviews Complete	Decision in Process
JAMC	56	5.2	6.4	5.3	45.8	5.0	0.0
JAS	59	4.8	0.6	3.2	47.1	3.2	0.0
JCLI	64	2.9	6.5	6.1	44.6	5.4	0.0
JHM	65	4.3	2.2	5.5	50.0	5.8	0.0
JPO	54	4.3	0.8	2.5	41.9	3.5	0.0
JTECH	65	3.3	4.4	6.3	47.4	5.0	0.6
MWR	51	5.9	0.4	4.0	37.4	5.9	0.0
WAF	52	3.9	0.1	5.1	40.1	6.1	0.0
WCAS	48	5.6	7.0	5.1	44.9	6.5	0.0
EI	65	13.2	0.8	6.4	42.6	4.8	3.4
All	59	4.3	3.2	4.8	44.0	4.9	0.1