

# 2016 PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION REPORT<sup>1</sup>

August 2, 2016

Robert M. Rauber, AMS Publications Commissioner

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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.

## 2016 PUBLICATIONS COMMISSION (PC) REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides highlights of the 2015 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 2015 Editor's Award nominations are given.

Council action (yellow highlights) is required for 2 year reappointments of David Kristovich as Chief Editor (CE) of JAMC, David Schultz as the CE of MWR, Christa Peters-Lidard as CE of JHM, Rezaul Mahmood as CE of EI, and initial 3 year appointments of a new co-Chief Editor of JCLI, Timothy DeSole, and CE of WAF, Gary Lackmann. Council action is also required for (1) approval of the new Terms for Reference of the Journals, and (2) Corrections to the description of the Editor's award to comply with practice and with past Council decisions concerning this award and (3) PC recommendations for how often an individual can receive the award during a career; (4) The creation of an Editors award for AMS Monographs, the only AMS publication venue not having an award; and (5) Changing the open-access quarantine to one year to comply with Federal regulations under CHORUS. These points are covered in detail in this document.

A total of 3436 manuscripts of all types (including BAMS proposals) were received by the 11 AMS scholarly journals in 2015, an increase over the 3267 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 was 64.8 days, below the PC goal of 70 days. This is the second year the PC conducted an extensive statistical study of this statistic. The results for 2015 are summarized in Sec. 14 and Appendix R. Author success has maintained a near-constant 63%. Average production time has decreased from a high of 269 days in January of 2008. In April 2016, production time hit an all-time low of 67 days, despite a large increase in submissions during all these periods. In 2015, the number of published pages was 33,412, an all-time record. The number of published articles in 2015 declined from 2014, a result of a reduction in the backlog in production. Expedited contributions (ECs) have been in place for five years. The initial decision for these contributions was 45 days. The full report gives a complete summary of journal statistics and rankings.

This report summarizes actions being taken by the PC to 1) differentiate AMS monographs and from special collections, (2) continue progress toward an AMS Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosols, 3) increase submissions to WCAS, 4) reduce the tail of distribution of time to initial decision for AMS manuscripts, 5) modify the terms of reference for the journals so that they focus only on journal research topics and have a uniform structure and tone, and 6) diversify the editor pool.

This report discusses the launch of new Journals Online website, actions required for CHORUS implementation, steps taken toward having authors use ORCID identifiers, and moves to promote data citation and meet Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines. In addition, the report summarizes discussions of the PC toward potential publication of abstracts in foreign languages, compiling metrics beside citations, reducing the number of corrigenda, and educating our authors and reviewers on publication and review processes.

## 1. Introduction

This report provides highlights of the 2015 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 2 year reappointments of David Kristovich as Chief Editor (CE) of JAMC, David Schultz as the CE of MWR, Christa Peters-Lidard as CE of JHM, Rezaul Mahmood as CE of EI, and initial 3 year appointments of a new co-Chief Editor of JCLI, Timothy DeSole, and CE of WAF, Gary Lackmann. Council action is also required for (1) approval of the new Terms for Reference of the Journals, (2) Corrections to the description of the Editor's award to comply with practice and with past Council decisions concerning this award and (3) PC recommendations for how often an individual can receive the award during a career; (4) The creation of an Editors award for AMS Monographs, the only AMS publication venue not having an award; (5) recommendation that Council adopt a new policy of open access after one year for all AMS publications so that the AMS complies with CHORUS regulations and all authors publishing in AMS journals are treated equally. These points are covered in detail in this document.

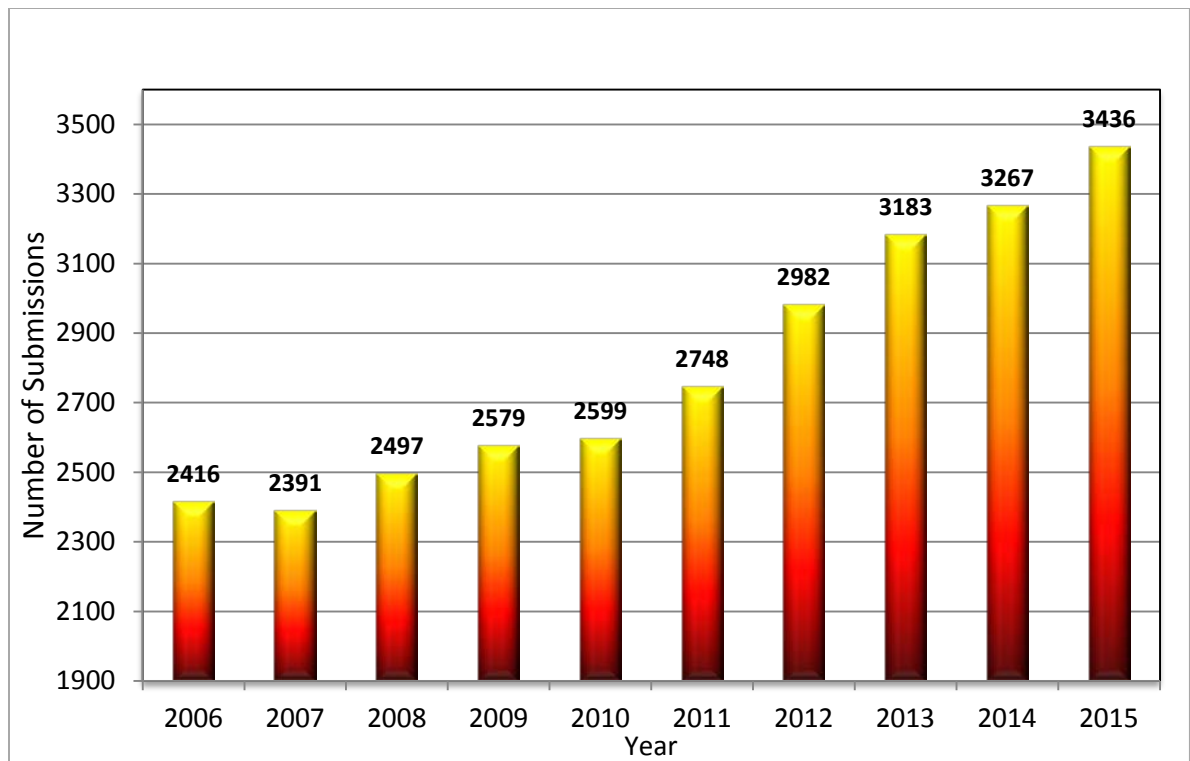
## 2. 2015 Editorial Operations and Submission Trends

*Table 1: Summary of submissions to AMS journals in 2015*

Journal	Submissions Received	Final Disposition Cohort <sup>1</sup>							
		Total Final Dispositions	Final Dispositions that were:			Initial Decisions that were:		Average Days to:	
			Accept	Reject	Withdrawn	Major	Minor	Initial Decision	Final Disposition
JAMC	364	342	157	171	14	169	36	56.3	138.8
JAS	382	372	273	93	6	213	79	56.9	148.0
JCLI	894	808	533	261	14	449	123	77.9	170.6
JHM	238	239	160	73	6	128	44	68.4	169.2
JPO	251	257	176	73	8	149	43	61.0	189.6
JTECH	257	229	146	73	10	119	47	80.3	186.4
MWR	452	452	256	183	13	227	59	52.8	135.5
WAF	175	161	109	46	6	86	33	58.7	152.5
WCAS	79	60	27	28	5	24	11	74.2	173.0
BAMS	291	286	185	93	8	97	83	53.6	122.2
EI	53	45	25	19	1	26	2	85.9	201.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3436</b>	<b>3251</b>	<b>2047</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1687</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>157.6</b>
<b>Percent</b>			<b>63.0%</b>	<b>34.2%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>51.9%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>		

<sup>1</sup> The final disposition cohort excludes editorials, comments and replies as well as transferred manuscripts and manuscripts withdrawn before the review process begins.

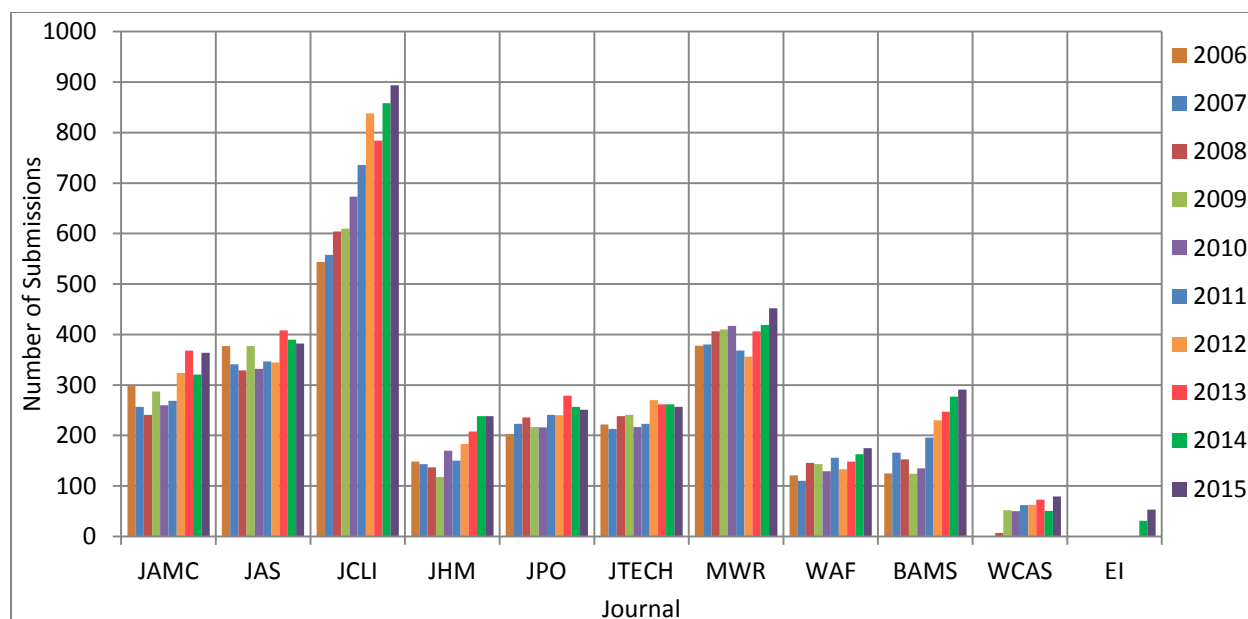
A summary of the 2015 publications submissions and editorial decisions are shown in Table 1. Figure 1 is a plot of the number of submissions (including EI beginning 2014) from 2006 to 2015. The table below Fig. 1 shows the 2014–2015 change in each journal's submissions. Journal abbreviations are as follows: 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

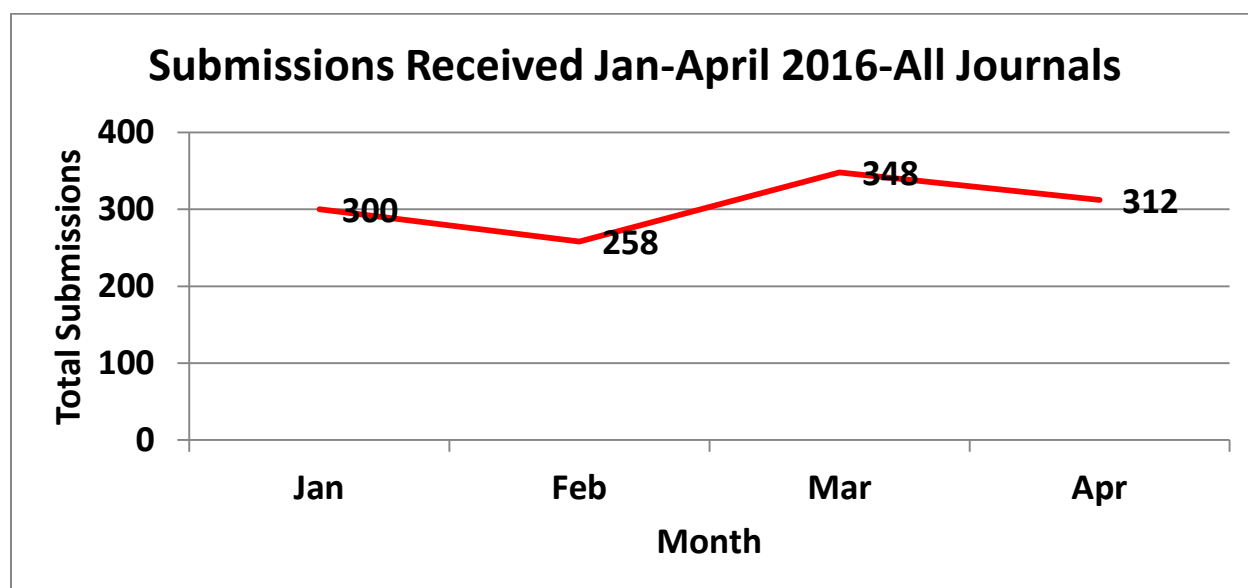
	2014	2015	Δ
JCLI	858	894	36
JAMC	321	364	43
JTECH	262	257	-5
JHM	238	238	0
BAMS	277	291	14
WCAS	51	79	28
JAS	390	382	-8
JPO	257	251	-6
MWR	419	452	33
WAF	163	175	12
EI	31	53	22
	3267	3436	169

*Figure 1: Annual submission rate to AMS journals during the last decade, and the change in submission rate for each journal between 2014 and 2015*



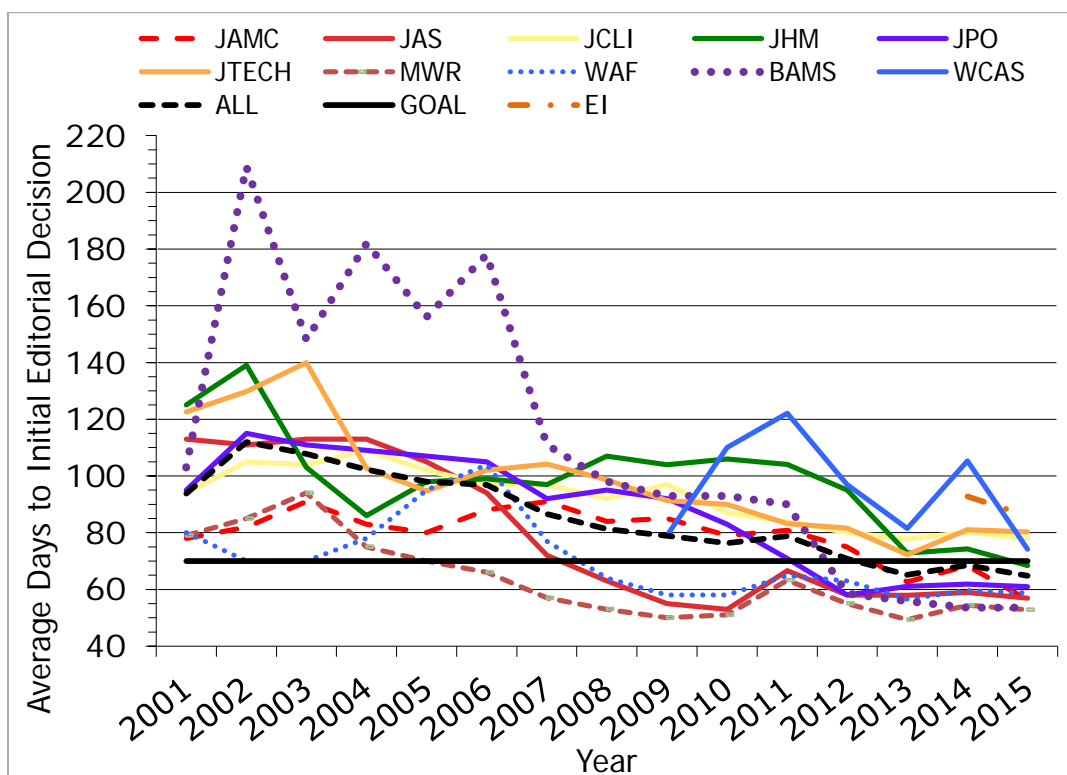
**Figure 2: Growth in submissions to AMS journals over the last 10 years**

A total of 3436 manuscripts of all types (including BAMS proposals) were received by the 11 AMS scholarly journals in 2015, an increase over the 3267 submissions in 2014, repeating last year's achievement of setting an all-time record high for yearly submissions to AMS journals. Note that EI was not included prior to 2014. JCLI, MWR, and JAS continue to be the three largest journals, although JAMC had a large increase in submissions, and is approaching JAS in number of submissions. All journals except JPO, JAS, and JTECH had increases in submissions. These three journals were essentially the same as 2014. Notably, WCAS saw over a 50% increase in submissions since page charges were removed. If we look over a broader time period (Fig. 2), we can see that all journals except JAS, JTECH and JPO are generally experiencing continued growth. A total of 1218 submissions, including BAMS proposals and EI submissions, arrived through April 2016 (Fig. 3). If this rate is maintained, we are on target for 3654 manuscripts, which would be a record year if that comes to pass.



**Fig. 3: Total submissions to AMS journals in 2016 through April 2016**

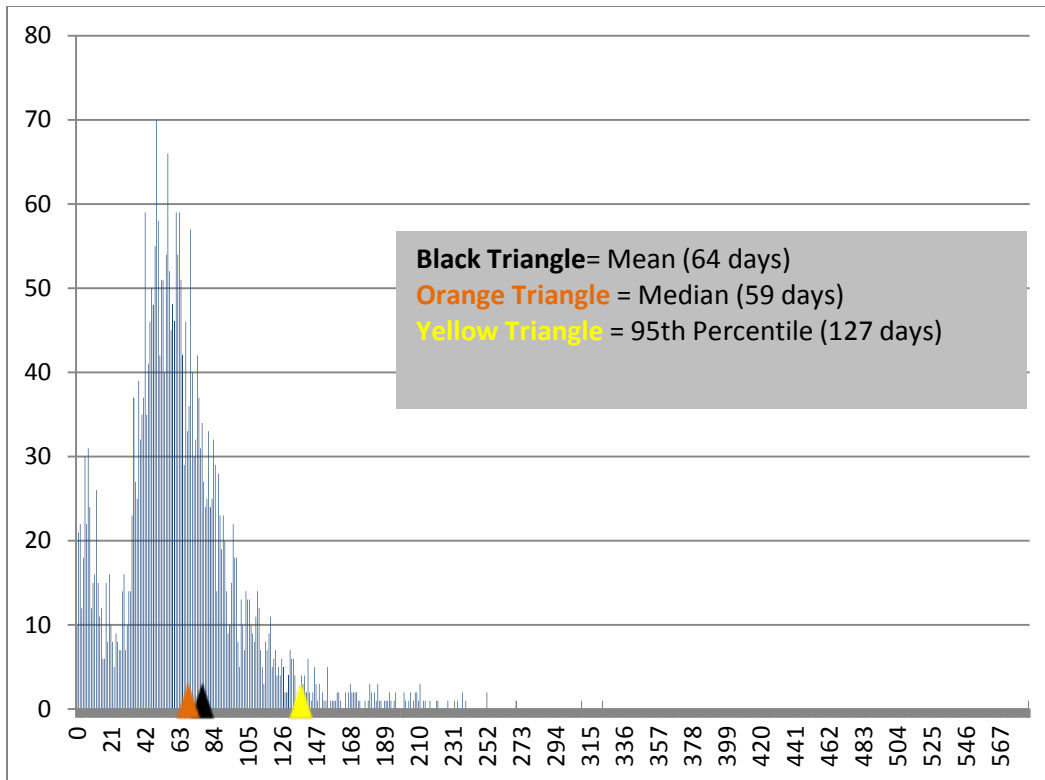
The time for first editorial decision can be seen in the column labeled “Average Days to Initial Decision” in Table 1. The 10-year evolution of this parameter can be visualized in Fig. 4. This is one important metric for editor performance. With continued emphasis within the Commission for improved author service, the time to first editorial decision has been decreasing since 2006 (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, 2015: 64.8 days). For the fourth year in a row, we have reached our stated Commission goal of 70 days, and now have the lowest average in our history.



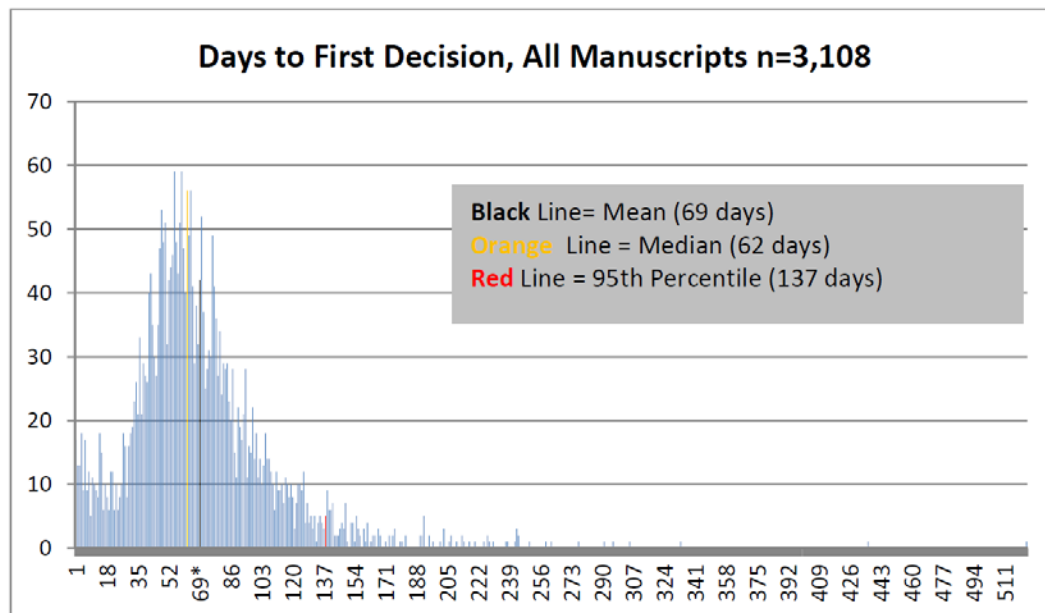
**Figure 4: Time to initial decisions for manuscripts submitted to AMS journals (including BAMS proposals)**

In Table 1 and Fig. 4, we see that four journals (JCLI, JTECH, WCAS, and EI) still have not reached the 70-day goal; all others have surpassed the goal, with five journals now under 60 days. WCAS, the worst performing journal in 2014 (105 days), has improved dramatically in 2015 to 74.2 days. This year, EI was the slowest at 85 days. This journal is still adapting to AMS editing style after moving from AGU. Part of the 85 days is due to technical checks where papers have different submission requirements from AGU (see Fig 6), and the fact that this journal has a small number of submissions, so one paper can strongly influence the average.

For the second year, the PC examined the complete statistics of the time to initial decision to try to understand and control outliers. Figure 5 shows these statistics for all journals in 2015. For comparison, Fig. 6 shows the statistics for 2014. Fig. 5 continues to point 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, and again in May 2016. Because of its importance, I will address this issue more thoroughly in Sec. 13 of this report.



**Figure 5: Full statistics on 2015 days to first decision for all AMS journals**






**Figure 6: Full statistics on 2014 days to first decision for all AMS journals**

Author success rate (63%) has maintained a nearly constant value 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

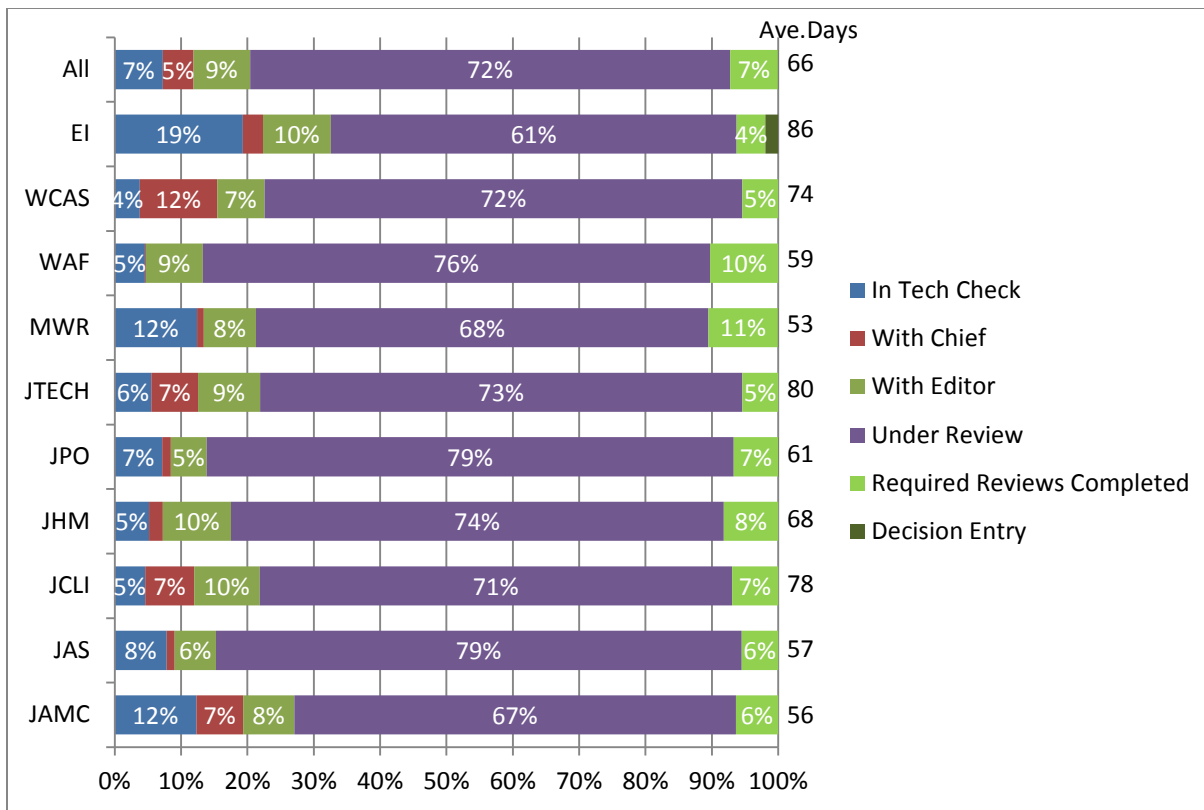
The AMS Editorial Board consists of 123 Chief Editors/Editors of scholarly journals including BAMS. The metric that the Publications Commission uses to gauge Editor Performance is based on the time to first editorial decision for a new manuscript. The top-performing Editors, in terms of quickest time to first editorial decision for manuscripts that were not rejected without review, are shown in Table 2. It is worth noting that the time to first decision is not all in the Editor's hands but involves several steps. Figure 7 summarizes these steps and the percent time spent in each step for each of the journals in 2015. 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 2015\**

Gold			Silver			Bronze		
 Editor (Journal)	Ave. Days to Initial Decisions	# Final Disp.	 Editor (Journal)	Ave. Days to Initial Decision	# Final Disp.	 Editor (Journal)	Ave. Days to Initial Decision	# Final Disp.
Rosen (BAMS)	25.8	14	Robinson (JAS)	47.6	17	Fovell (JAS)	53.6	20
Schultz (MWR)	38.5	59	Roundy (MWR)	48.3	21	Bryan (MWR)	54.4	35
Kristovich (JAMC)	41.1	68	Markowski (WAF)	48.4	49	Li (JCLI)	54.5	36
McTaggart-Cowan (MWR)	44.0	43	Richardson (MWR)	50.5	12	Cai (JAS)	55.1	33
Morrison (MWR)	45.9	10	Saenko (JCLI)	52.0	29	C. Wu (JAS)	55.5	37
Waldstreicher (BAMS)	46.2	13	Geerts (JAMC)	52.1	18	Sun (MWR)	56.0	23

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





**Figure 7: 2015 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 five 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 2015. Approximately 6.6% 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 70.1% remain as ECs and 29.9% are converted or rejected. These numbers are close to accept/reject statistics of all AMS submissions. The time to initial decision ranges from 31 to 63 days for all journals, excepting EI. EI only had EC, and is still adapting to the AMS procedures. The average time to initial decision for all journals was 45.8 days, and the average time to final decision was 63.4 days. Overall, the expedited contribution concept is working, but the number of ECs has declined every year. We note in Sec. 5 that production time for ECs is still 20 days below normal articles, although both are becoming short.

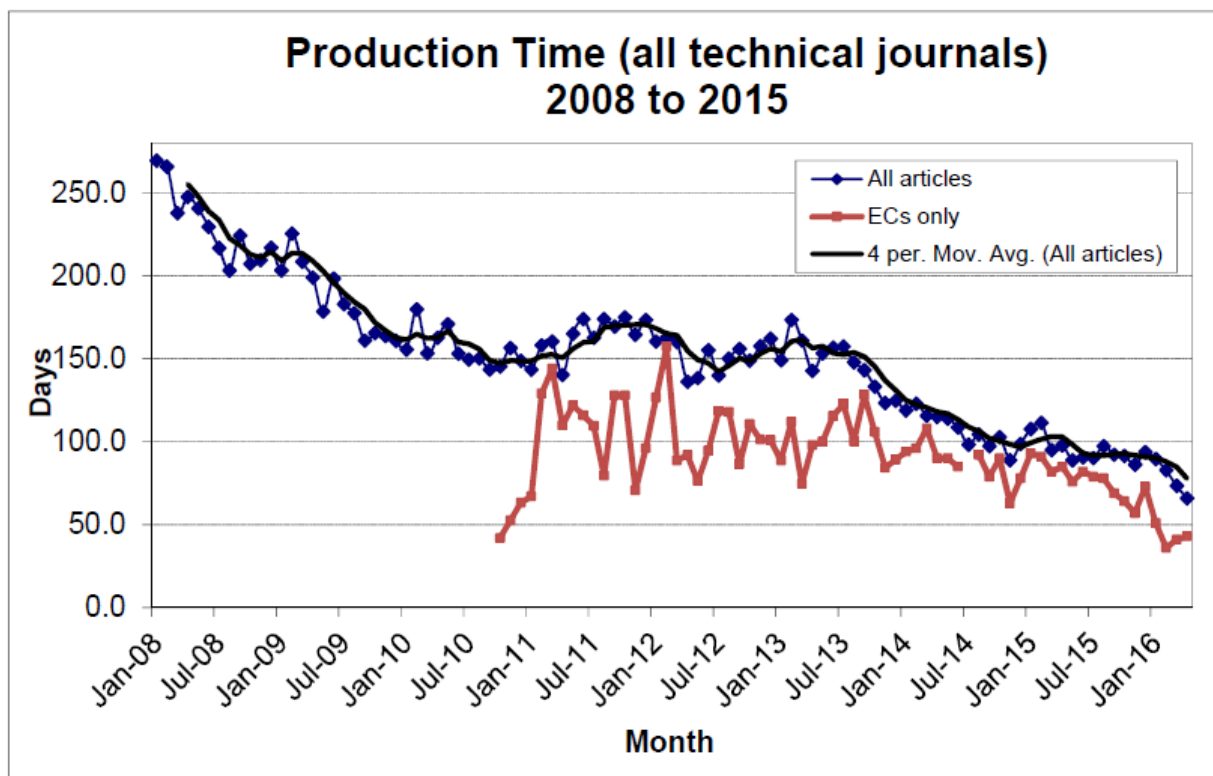
*Table 3: Summary of 2015 expedited contributions to AMS journals*

Journal	Expedited Contributions handled in 2015:				Total Number of Submissions	Percentage of 2015 Submissions:		Average Days for ECs to:	
	Were Handled (carry over + new)	Were Converted to Articles	Reached Final Disposition as ECs	Are Under Consideration in 2016		Beginning as ECs	Expedited Contributions Converted	Initial Decision	Final Disposition
JAMC	27	13	11	7	364	6.0%	40.9%	43.8	64.5
JAS	26	11	13	4	382	3.7%	28.6%	31.4	40.6
JCLI	87	38	36	20	894	7.6%	36.8%	53.3	63.3
JHM	22	13	8	5	238	6.3%	53.3%	55.9	84.4
JPO	25	9	14	4	251	7.6%	21.1%	44.7	77.6
JTECH	25	9	10	11	257	5.4%	0%	63.0	80.1
MWR	32	10	19	6	452	6.0%	22.2%	31.1	39.3
WAF	14	1	10	3	175	8%	7.1%	39.8	51.1
WCAS	12	4	7	3	79	15.2%	44.4%	56.8	84.6
EI	6	4	2	1	53	7.5%	50.0%	90.5	91.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>3145</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>29.9%</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>63.4</b>
Average Days to Initial Decision for All ECs = 45.8					Average Days to Initial Decision for All Articles (Excluding BAMS) =65.9				
Average Days to Final Disposition for All ECs = 63.4					Average Days to Final Disposition for All Articles (Excluding BAMS) =161.0				

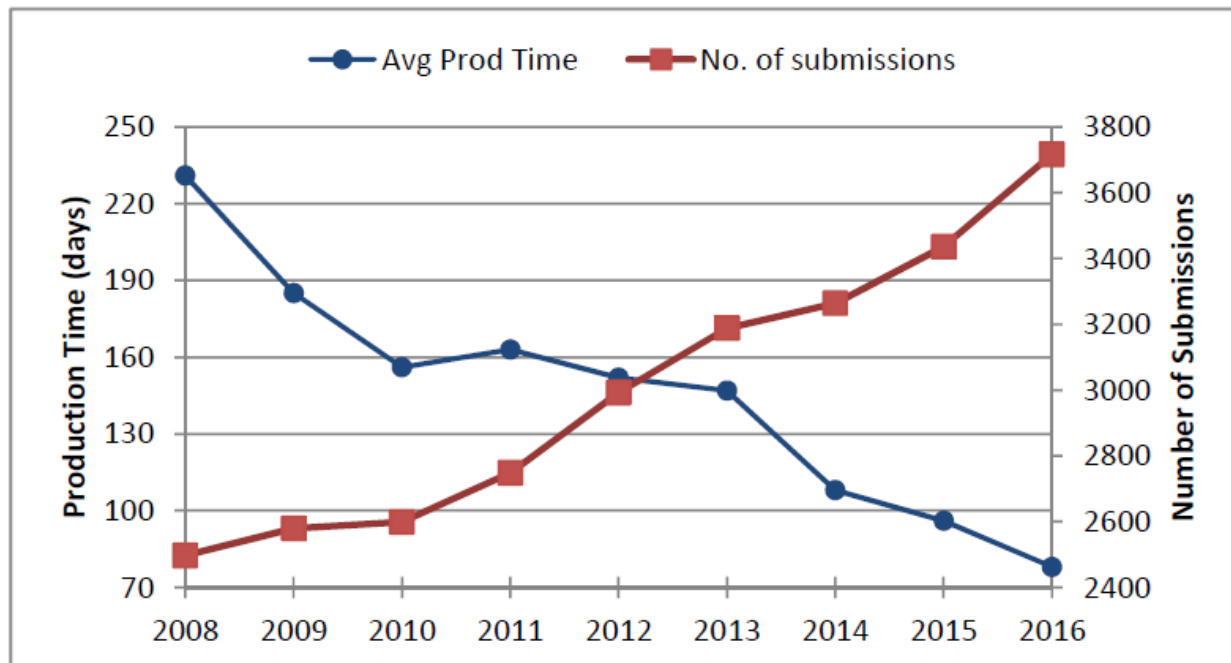
## 5. Production Time and Article-Based Workflow

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 processed 1933 accepted articles last year, including monograph contributions that now have a similar workflow as journals. The AMS publications department converted to article-based workflow in late 2015. In the past, publication of an article in final form was delayed until all the articles in a print issue were collected. At that time, all the articles in the issue were released online simultaneously. Now the articles are posted on-line as they are done. The overall average for 2016 through April (all journals) was 82 days. The record of 67 days was achieved in April 2016 (Fig. 8). Over the longer term, average production time has decreased from of a high of 269 days in January of 2008 to its April 2016 value of 67 days. As Fig. 9 shows, this decrease occurred during a period when submissions to our journals increased substantially, a remarkable achievement.

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.



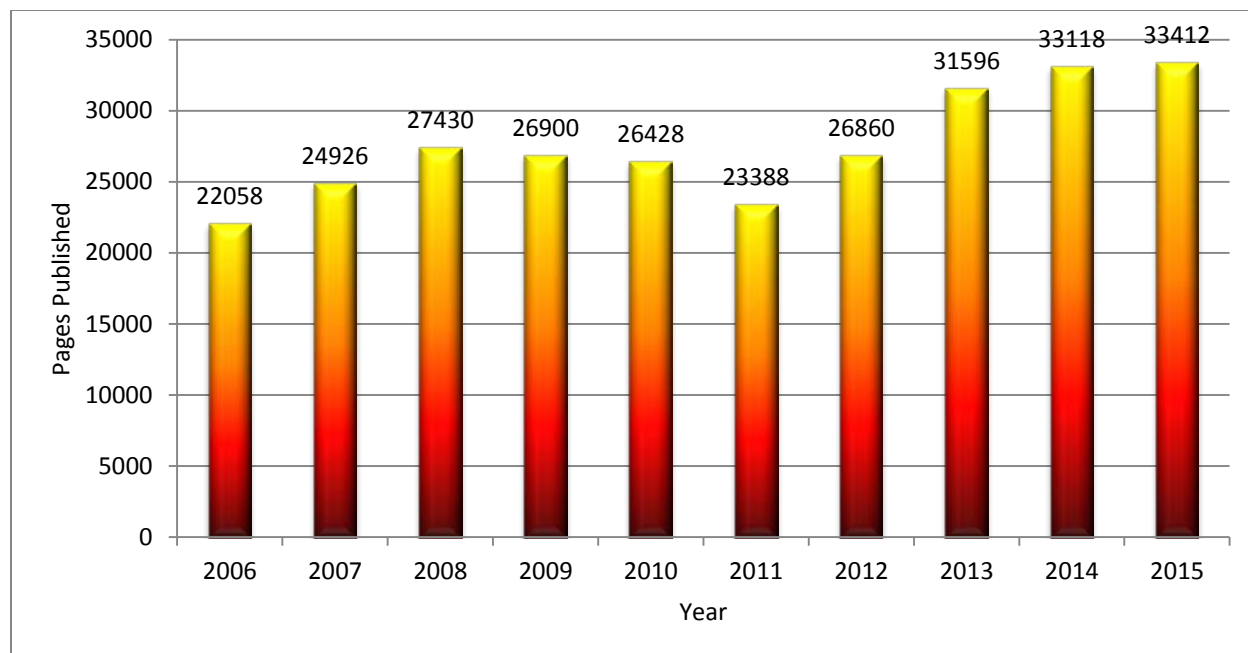
*Figure 8: Production time for all technical journals and expedited contributions*



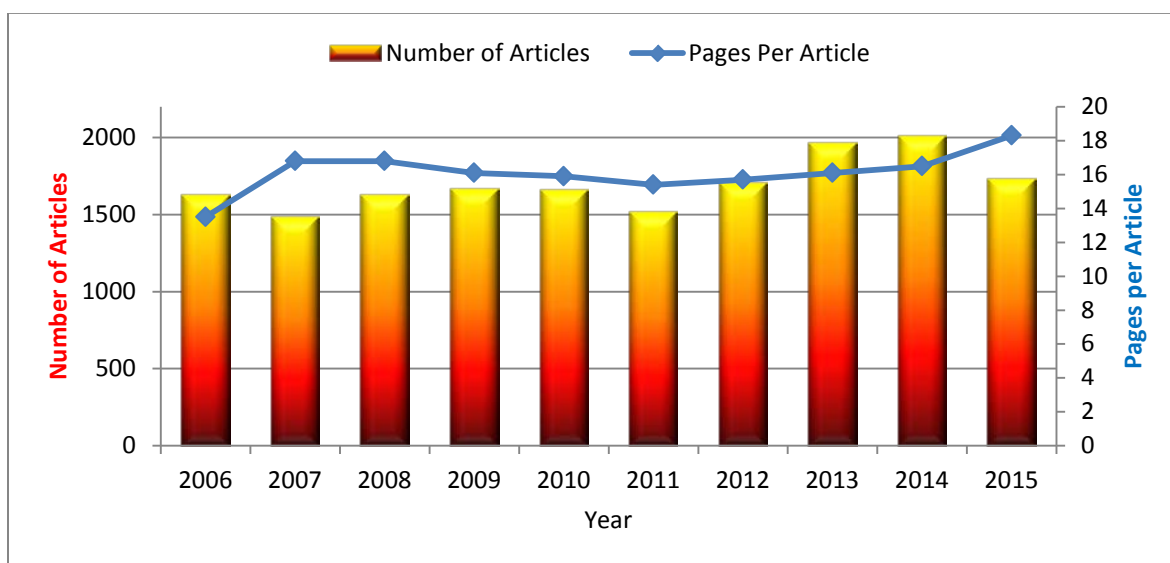
*Figure 9: Production time versus number of submissions 2008–2016.*

## 6. Published Pages

Figure 10 shows the trend in published pages in AMS journals since 2006. In 2015, the number of pages published was 33,412, an all-time record. Figure 11 also shows the number of articles and average pages per article. The number of published articles, ~1750, decreased, while the length of articles increased by about 2 pages. The decrease in the number of articles published seems paradoxical since we have more submissions. However, this reflects the reduction in the backlog due to faster production times, rather than a real decrease. We have more accepted papers every year, just better throughput now. The increase in page length may be an indirect effect of reduced page charges for color, although that is difficult to quantify.



*Figure 10: Trends in published pages in AMS journals since 2006*



*Figure 11: Trends in number of articles and pages per article in AMS journals since 2006*

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

In 2015 AMS Books published two new titles, backfilled its electronic archive on Springer with 23 older and previously out-of-print monographs, and increased unit sales by 44 percent.

**Table 4: Total AMS Books print (P) and electronic (E) unit sales by AMS, Springer, and University of Chicago Press:**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
AMS (P&E)	1565	1793	1304	1125	1145	1111	1145
UCP <sup>1</sup> (P&E)	342	755	1322	2005	2108	3816	5943
Springer <sup>2</sup> (E-only)						19	42
Total	1907	2548	2626	3125	3235	4946	7130

1. University of Chicago Press (UCP) sales include Amazon, B&N, eBook vendors such as Apple and Sony, etc.

2. Titles available on Springer: 2014 (12), 2015 (35),  
Summer 2016 (84)

The tremendous unit sales increase is thanks in no small part to the success of *The Thinking Person's Guide to Climate Change* by Robert Henson. Of its 6,432 LTD unit sales, 97 percent are print as opposed to electronic books, and 93 percent have been made for us by our distribution partner, the University of Chicago Press. We expect that book's sales to decline now, as typically happens when newer books on a topic are released in the market, and we will release an updated edition in late 2017, allowing for the inclusion of topics such as the new IPGCC Assessment Report and the U.S. Presidential elections.

### Recent Releases

- *Hurricane Pioneer: Memoirs of Bob Simpson* (with Neal M. Dorst) provides a personal peek into the early years of modern meteorology, when domestic and international centers of study were developing and burgeoning, Simpson was the first to ride a plane into a storm for research purposes, and the National Hurricane Research Project evolved into the National Hurricane Center.
- *A Scientific Peak: How Boulder Became a World Center for Space and Atmospheric Science*, by Joseph P. Bassi, introduces us to a wide variety of characters, including the tenacious Walter Orr Roberts, and the serendipitous brew of politics, passion, and sheer luck that, during the post-WWII and Cold War eras, would transform this “scientific Siberia” into the research mecca it is today.

### Reviews and Awards

Our books have appeared in *CMOS Bulletin*, *Choice Journal*, *Physics Today*, *Boulder Daily Camera*, and more. *A Scientific Peak* won an ASLI Choice Award Honorable Mention in the History category and has recently been nominated for the American Astronautical Society's Eugene M. Emme Award and the Marc-Auguste Pictet Prize in the History of Meteorological and Climate Sciences.

## In the Pipeline

- Weather in the Courtroom (memoir)
- Midlatitude Synoptic Meteorology Labs
- A Brief History of Meteorology
- Canadian Climate History

## 8. 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*, three at-large members, and AMS staff. AMS journals currently have 123 Chief Editors/Editors, including BAMS. Appendix A shows the current status of our Editorial Boards of all journals except BAMS. We have appointed 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:

JCLI	<b>Timothy DelSole</b>	Initial 3-year appointment to December 31, 2019
WAF	<b>Gary Lackmann*</b>	Initial 3-year appointment to July 31, 2020
JAMC	<b>David Kristovich</b>	2-year extension to December 31, 2018
WCAS	<b>David Schultz</b>	2-year extension to December 31, 2018
JHM	<b>Christa Peters-Lidard</b>	2-year extension to December 31, 2017
EI	<b>Rezaul Mahmood</b>	2-year extension to December 31, 2017

\* Dr. Lackmann's appointment will start August 1, 2017 when CE Markowski retires.

Prof. Tim DelSole of George Mason University has been a *Journal of Climate* editor since January 2010. In addition to his faculty appointment as full professor, he also serves as a senior research scientist at the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies. Prof. DelSole's climate research is focused on determining to what extent climate can be predicted on time scales ranging from weeks to years. Prof. DelSole's CV appears as Appendix F.

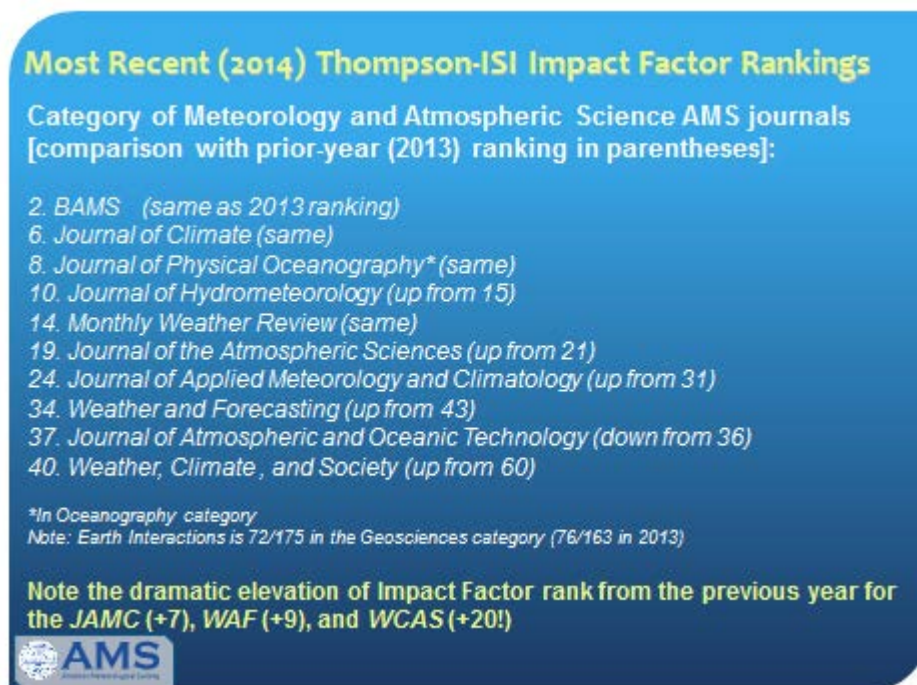
Professor Gary Lackmann has not been an editor, but has literally written the book on synoptic meteorology (*Midlatitude Synoptic Meteorology: Dynamics, Analysis, and Forecasting*, 2011 AMS). He has published 47 papers, is the winner of the AMS Edward Lorenz teaching award, and has won the AMS MWR Editor's award. Professor Lackmann's CV appears as Appendix G.

## 9. Journal Impact Factor Ratings

Table 4 below shows that four of the top 10 journals in the most recent ranking of Thompson-Reuters Impact Factor® (and 6 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 2 of all journals in the Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences category. Notable rises in ranking



occurred with WCAS (60 to 40), WAF (43 to 34), JAMC (31 to 24), JAS (21 to 19), and JHM (15-10). Only one decline occurred (JTECH, from 37-36). These changes bode well for the reputation of all our journals.



*Table 5: ISI Journal Impact factor ratings for 2014, the latest available at the time of this writing*

## 10. Editor Awards

The list of 2015 Publications Commission nominees for Editor's Awards is shown in Appendix B. The AOC has approved these nominations and recommended them to Council.

There are three actions from Council that are requested concerning Editor's awards:

- (1) The PC recommends updating the description of the award on the AMS website. The current description is incorrect.

(<https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-awards-honors/awards/awards-list/the-editore28099s-award/>)

- a) The description of the "Nomination Process and Requirements" for selecting awards on the AMS awards website is incorrect. The membership does not submit nominations for these awards. The nominations come from the AMS Editors.
- b) The "Special Procedures section" of the website text is incorrect. Currently, each journal (and the Glossary of Meteorology) award one Editors' award to an outstanding reviewer. In 2009, Council approved one additional Editors' Awards for each 500 manuscripts published in a calendar year by the AMS. These additional awards are to be assigned by the PC to specific journals based on their submission load, and 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. This year we awarded 5 additional awards. Based on submission rates, we will likely award 7 in 2017.
- (2) AMS Monographs is the only publication venue of the AMS that does not have an award. We request Council to provide an award for this venue.

(3) The PC reviewed the Editors' awardees throughout the history of the award from 1969 to the present. On very rare occasions, the same person has received the award more than once (sometimes from the same journal). The PC discussed this issue and recommends that Council approve language that limits any individual from receiving an Editors' award more than one during their career. The pool of excellent and worthy reviewers is large and the PC believes it is appropriate to distribute the awards across the reviewer pool.

## **The current language, and proposed changes, on the Editor's award AMS website are**

### **Current**

#### **The Editor's Award**

##### **Nomination Process and Requirements**

The procedure for Awards nominations is restricted to electronic submissions, unless stated otherwise, and should be submitted by 1 May. The nominator is responsible for uploading the entire nomination package. Most awards require the following: nomination letter, nominee Curriculum Vitae, bibliography, and three (3) letters of support. A committee or commission has the responsibility to select and submit to the Council the names of individuals nominated for the Society's awards listed. The nominees for most awards remain on the committee's active list for three years. You will be allowed to update an unsuccessful nomination at the beginning of the next award cycle.

##### **Description**

The Editor's Award is given to an individual who has contributed a referee's report of outstanding merit on a manuscript submitted for publication in one of the Society's journals. It draws attention to the fact that the quality of our journals depends in a crucial way upon the reviewing process, and that this process is one to which a large segment of the scientific community contributes much time and painstaking effort, largely unheralded, in a spirit of selfless commitment to the ideals of accuracy and lucidity in scientific writing. Nominations are considered by the Publications Commission, which makes recommendations for final approval by AMS Council.

##### **Special Procedure**

The Publications Commissioner oversees a process in which the publications' Editorial Boards recommend individuals for outstanding service to the journals and the Glossary of Meteorology. The service generally takes the form of providing exceptional reviews in a timely fashion or providing reviews of difficult submissions. Other forms of service are also recognized including providing Editors advice about disparate reviews and adjudicating controversies between reviewers and authors. Each publication nominates one individual per year, and additional awards can be given to improve equity of awards across publications. The total number of Editor's Awards is currently capped at 17, one for each of the 12 publications, plus five to be distributed equitably across them.

### **Proposed Change**

#### **The Editor's Award**

##### **Nomination Process and Requirements**



Nominations for the Editor's award are submitted by the Editors of each publication to the Chief Editor of that specific publication. Nominations must include information about reviewer performance, and why that reviewer is outstanding among the reviewers participating in the review process for the calendar year under consideration. The Chief Editor is charged with making the final recommendation(s) for the publication under consideration. The nominations are then submitted to the Publications Commissioner, who reviews and presents them to the Publications Commission for its approval. The nominees are then forwarded to the AMS Council, through the Awards Oversight Committee, for final approval.

### **Description**

The Editor's Award is given to an individual who has contributed a referee's report of outstanding merit on a manuscript submitted for publication in one of the Society's publications. It draws attention to the fact that the quality of our publications depends in a crucial way upon the reviewing process, and that this process is one to which a large segment of the scientific community contributes much time and painstaking effort, largely unheralded, in a spirit of selfless commitment to the ideals of accuracy and lucidity in scientific writing. Nominations are considered by the Publications Commission, which makes recommendations for final approval by AMS Council. An individual may receive an Editor's Award only once, whether for the same or any other publication.

### **Special Procedure**

The Publications Commissioner oversees a process in which the publications' Editorial Boards recommend individuals for outstanding service to the journals, the Glossary of Meteorology, and the Meteorological Monographs. The service generally takes the form of providing exceptional reviews in a timely fashion or providing reviews of difficult submissions. Other forms of service are also recognized including providing Editors advice about disparate reviews and adjudicating controversies between reviewers and authors. Each publication nominates one individual per year, and additional awards are given to improve the equity of awards across publications. The number of additional awards in a given year is roughly equal to the number of submissions to AMS publications divided by 500.

## **11. Future AMS Monographs and Differentiation from Special Collections**

Two monographs are currently in production, the first a tribute to Yanai (Monograph #56) and the second a history and summary of research from the DOE Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) project (Monograph #57). All AMS monographs now use electronic processing and are posted on-line. At the time of this writing, the Yanai monograph is now complete online. The ARM monograph had the Introduction and first two chapters are online, with the rest in production. More chapters are being posted every week. We have one new monograph in progress, called the "Ice Monograph (Monograph #58), that summarizes the state of the art in measurement of ice particles in the atmosphere with airborne probes.

In soliciting the Ice Monograph, we learned from our authors that one of the reasons that authors are reluctant to publish in AMS Monographs, even after the move to electronic processing, was that Monograph articles are not recorded by the Web of Science and therefore, it is impossible to judge the impact of the articles since their citations are not tracked. Monographs Editor, Greg McFarquar, together with AMS Publications Director, Ken Heideman, have taken action to work with Web of Science to fix this issue as quickly as possible.

Last year, I reported that PC members raised a question as to how we separate monographs from special collections. We set up a committee to evaluate this question, and published an editorial in all AMS Journals explaining the differentiation. The editorial appeared in the February 2016 journals and is included as Appendix C.

## 12. 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. We provide an update here on progress toward the goal.

Recall that in 2014, the PC added Renyi Zhang, Professor at Texas A&M University and head of the AMS STAC committee on chemistry. Renyi has organized two special collections of atmospheric chemistry papers for JAS. The first special collection is titled “Aerosol–Cloud–Precipitation–Climate Interactions.” The Organizers are Jiwen Fan, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and Daniel Rosenfeld of The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This special collection is underway. So far 25 papers were submitted to the special collection. Of these, 10 are accepted, 6 rejected, and 9 under review. The second collection is in honor of Robert Duce. It is entitled “Exchanges of pollutant and natural substances at the interface between air and sea.” Renyi and Peter Liss are co-organizers. So far there are 10 submissions: 9 accepted, 1 rejected. In addition, we appointed an internationally recognized leader in atmospheric chemistry, Professor Bill Brune, as co-Chief Editor of JAS. He was 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.

To date, aside from the special collections, other submissions to JAS that can be classified as Atmospheric Aerosol or Chemistry have been slow. The response of the Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol community has been slow, with this community continuing to use their primary outlet journals, ACP and JGR-Atmospheres. The PC spent a large block of time discussing this issue at the June 2016 meeting. Our conclusion was that the risk of starting a new journal at this time was too high, and that we should wait another year while continuing to try to engage the atmospheric aerosol and chemistry community. To that end, Mary Cairns has taken on the responsibility of engaging the atmospheric aerosol and chemistry membership to get a critical mass of people interested in launching a journal.

Mary has agreed to review with the AC community the need for an emphasis within the AMS journals. The information will be provided to the PC for a proposal to Council on how to move forward. This review will include:

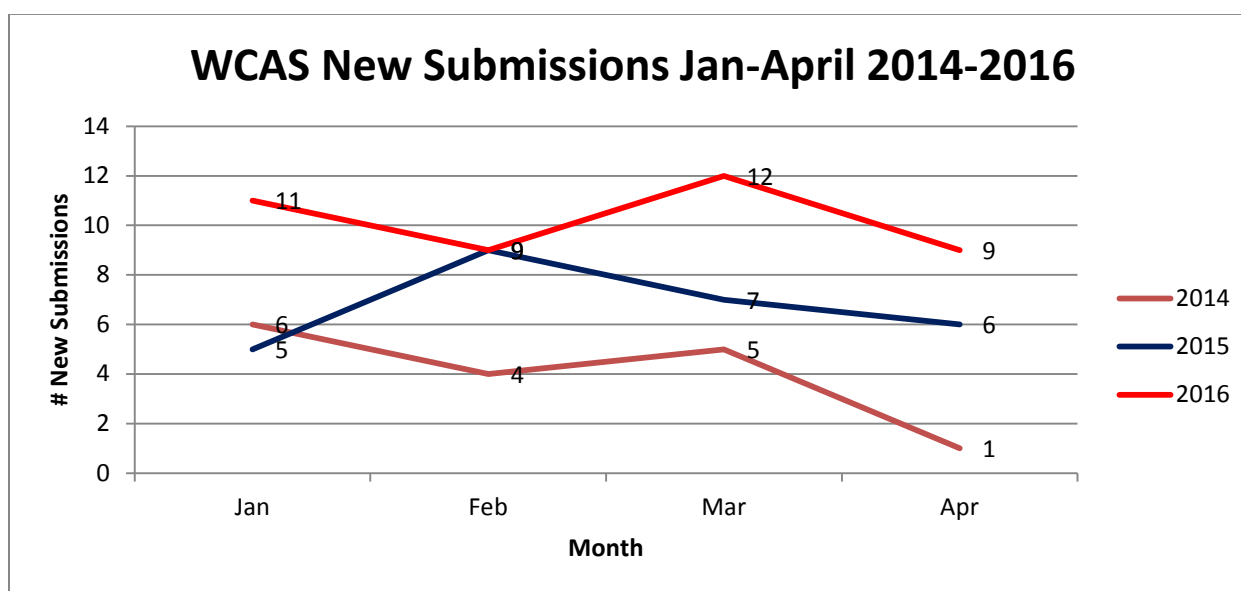
- A survey of past attendees of the Conference on Atmospheric Chemistry (including the STAC Committee on Atmospheric Chemistry), along with the Board on Atmospheric Biogeosciences-related meetings. This survey will ask several pertinent questions that will help with the decision on how to move forward. The AMS Director of Meetings will assist with this process. Questions will be vetted to ensure a fair outcome.
- Results of a discussion of this issue with a number of colleagues, including:
  - Bill Brune, current JAS Co-Chief Editor, Chemistry/Aerosols; PSU
  - Renyi Zhang, Editor, JAS; Texas A&M
  - Nicole Riemer, Councilor; Univ Illinois U-C
  - Sonia Kreidenweis, CSU
  - Bill Stockwell, Howard Univ

- David Edwards, NCAR
- Findings from groups that conduct field experiments, etc. such as the NCAR Earth Observing Laboratory. Mary will engage scientists through the PC Member-at-Large Vanda Grubisic, Director, EOL.
- The results of a survey to the AMS Board of Higher Education to reach out to educational institutions department heads (emphasis on AC professors).

She will report to the PC as the year progresses on her efforts.

### 13. Impact of removal of page charges for WCAS

At the 2015 PC meeting, the PC recommended to Council the removal of page charges for WCAS as a means to stimulate submissions from the social science community. Council approved this action at its September 2015 meeting. The change was announced in an editorial in the January 2016 WCAS issue (see Appendix D), and in BAMS. The response has been very good. Fig. 12 below shows the January-April 2016 submissions compared to the previous two years. Overall WCAS submissions are up 50%. In addition, WCAS's ISI rating went up 20 points from 60-40. We expect further increases in submission as word gets out, and a corresponding jump in WCAS impact factor.



*Fig. 12: WCAS submission rate in January-April 2016, compared to previous two years.*

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

Two years ago, 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. The PC has continued this practice this year. The complete study for the 2015 year is included as Appendix E.

The PC also took specific actions at its 2015 meeting to attempt to reduce the tail of the distribution. These actions were

- 1) The Commissioner, together with the Chief Editors, revised the AMS Editor's Guide to clearly state expectations for Editors to ensure that the goals for time to first decision and final decision are understood.
- 2) The PRSAs now notify the Chief Editor anytime a paper handled by an Editor passes 90 days, and again in 10-day increments. The Chief Editors also 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) Non-performing Editors are 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.

In addition, several Chief Editors undertook a close examination of the tail of the distribution for their own journals. The results in these cases showed that there was no single editor or single reason for papers on the tail. One of the key problems were papers where the editors had a hard time finding reviewers, and when they did, had a hard time extracting reviews from the reviewers. In some cases with mixed reviews, or non-responsive reviewers, another reviewer or two had to be found late in the process, which built in further delays. We continue to monitor this issue very closely, and are very aware that our reputation as a publisher is driven by the tail and not the mean of the distribution. Our PC goal continues to be decision delivery in under 70 days for every paper.

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

At the last Council meeting, the PC submitted changed terms of reference for four journals. The Council asked the PC to review the terms of reference for all journals and bring them to a common format before approving any changes. The PC took on this task and has revised those required to ensure that the TORs accurately state the scope of the journal, and have a format consistent with each other. The old TORs and the revised TORs are below. Council approval is required for the new TORs. Note that we have now limited the TORs to the scope of the research of the journals. Other information, such as the types of submissions (articles, pictures of the month, annual hurricane summaries, review papers etc.) have been removed from the TORs and are listed separately in the more detailed description of each journal on the journal's home page.

### **Current Terms of Reference**

*Earth Interactions (EI)* is an online 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. *Earth Interactions* is a joint publication of the American Meteorological Society, American Geophysical Union, and American Association of Geographers.

*Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences (JAS)* publishes 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.

*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.

*Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology (JTECH)* publishes research describing instrumentation and methodologies used in atmospheric and oceanic research, including remote sensing instruments, measurements, validation, and data analysis techniques from satellites, aircraft, balloons, and surface-based platforms; in situ instruments, measurements, and methods for data acquisition, analysis, and interpretation; data assimilation for numerical models; and information systems and algorithms.

*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 Hydrometeorology (JHM)* publishes research related to the modeling, observing, and forecasting of processes related to water and energy fluxes and storage terms, including interactions with the boundary layer and lower atmosphere, and including processes related to precipitation, radiation, and other meteorological inputs.

*Journal of Physical Oceanography (JPO)* publishes research related to the physics of the ocean and to processes operating at its boundaries. Observational, theoretical, and modeling studies are all welcome, especially those that focus on elucidating specific physical processes. Papers that investigate interactions with other components of the earth system (e.g., ocean–atmosphere, physical–biological, and physical–chemical interactions) as well as studies of other fluid systems (e.g., lakes and laboratory tanks) are also invited, as long as their focus is on understanding the ocean or the ocean's role in the earth system.

*Monthly Weather Review (MWR)* publishes research results relevant to the analysis and prediction of observed atmospheric circulations and physics, including technique development, data assimilation, model validation, and relevant case studies. This includes papers on numerical and data assimilation techniques that apply to the atmosphere and/or ocean environments. *MWR* also addresses phenomena having seasonal and subseasonal time scales. Reviews of climatological aspects of high-impact events such as hurricanes, as well as review articles, are occasionally published.

*Weather and Forecasting (WAF)* publishes research that can lead without appreciable delay to improvements in operational forecasting, through implementation of new forecasting techniques relevant to case studies of significant weather events, modeling approaches, and dissemination of important information to operational forecasters. The journal covers research on deterministic and ensemble forecasting and analysis techniques applied to all time scales, forecast verification and new verification approaches, and methods to better forecast major weather events. This includes submissions that report on the capabilities of the latest physics, numerics, and data assimilation approaches within numerical models, ensembles, and statistical postprocessing techniques, demonstrate the transfer of research results to the forecasting community, and illustrate the societal use and values of forecasts.

*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. Please note: There are now no page charges to authors when publishing in WCAS.

## **Proposed Terms of Reference**

*Earth Interactions (EI)* publishes research on the interactions among the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, cryosphere and lithosphere including, but are not limited to, research on human impacts, such as land cover change, irrigation, dams/reservoirs, urbanization, pollution, and landslides. *Earth Interactions* is a joint publication of the American Meteorological Society, American Geophysical Union, and American Association of Geographers.

*Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences (JAS)* publishes basic research related to the physics, dynamics, chemistry, and aerosol properties of the atmosphere of Earth and other planets, with emphasis on the quantitative and deductive aspects of the subject.

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

*Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology (JTECH)* publishes research describing instrumentation and methods used in atmospheric and oceanic research, including remote sensing instruments; measurements, validation, and data analysis techniques from satellites, aircraft, balloons, and surface-based platforms; in situ instruments, measurements, and methods for data acquisition, analysis, and interpretation and assimilation in numerical models; and information systems and algorithms.

*Journal of Climate (JCLI)* publishes research that advances basic understanding of the dynamics and physics of the climate system on large spatial scales, including variability of the atmosphere, oceans, land surface, and cryosphere; past, present, and projected future changes in the climate system; and climate simulation and prediction.

*Journal of Hydrometeorology (JHM)* publishes research on modeling, observing, and forecasting processes related to fluxes and storage of water and energy, including interactions with the boundary layer and lower atmosphere, and processes related to precipitation, radiation, and other meteorological inputs.

*Journal of Physical Oceanography (JPO)* publishes research related to the physics of the ocean and to processes operating at its boundaries. Observational, theoretical, and modeling studies are all welcome, especially those that focus on elucidating specific physical processes. Papers that investigate interactions with other components of the Earth system (e.g., ocean–atmosphere, physical–biological, and physical–chemical interactions) as well as studies of other fluid systems (e.g., lakes and laboratory tanks) are also invited, as long as their focus is on understanding the ocean or its role in the Earth system.

*Monthly Weather Review (MWR)* publishes research relevant to the analysis and prediction of observed atmospheric circulations and physics, including technique development, data assimilation, model validation, and relevant case studies. This research includes numerical and data assimilation techniques that apply to the atmosphere and/or ocean environments. MWR also addresses phenomena having seasonal and subseasonal time scales.

*Weather and Forecasting (WAF)* publishes research that can lead to improvements in operational forecasting. This includes papers on significant weather events, forecasting techniques, forecast verification, model parameterizations, data assimilation, model ensembles, statistical postprocessing techniques, the transfer of research results to the forecasting community, and the societal use and value of forecasts.

*Weather, Climate, and Society (WCAS)* publishes research that encompasses economics, policy analysis, political science, history, and institutional, social, and behavioral scholarship relating 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.

## **16. Launch of new Journals Online website**

The new AMS Journals Online site ([journals.ametsoc.org](http://journals.ametsoc.org)) was released on 15 March. The new site gives a much needed update; it provides improved up-front functionality to our users and better behind the scenes functionality to the AMS. The new site continues the theme from the main AMS site redesign last year. We have simplified and improved site navigation to present more content on fewer pages. New functionality allows for quick access to content, more efficient maintenance, and improved user communication. Going forward, we will continue to make improvements to the site as new functionality becomes available and based on input and feedback from our users.

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

Following comments from Council at its September 2015 meeting, the PC discussed ways to diversify the editor pool. Editors need to be experienced reviewers with a developed reputation in their discipline. The PC requested that AMS staff develop from our database a comprehensive list of reviewers and the number of times they have reviewed for the journals. This list, together with knowledge of the reviewers' expertise and the journals they have reviewed for, can help the Chief Editors when replacing or adding to the associate editor staff, as well as the editorial staff of the individual journals. The PC believes this approach over the next several years will help in diversification of the editorial pool.

## **18. CHORUS implementation**

The AMS became a member of the Clearinghouse for Open Research in the U.S. (CHORUS) in April 2015. CHORUS facilitates delivering public access to published articles from funded research in the U.S. As a publisher member, AMS committed to assisting authors in complying with funder mandates, and providing public access to affected articles. AMS Publications is responsible for collecting funding information from authors publishing in our journals. As of April 2016, this has been implemented on all journal submission sites. Full implementation, including delivery of relevant metadata to CrossRef and full public access for federally funded research articles one year after publication, is scheduled to be complete by the end of



August 2016. This will allow U.S. funding agencies to directly track results from grants awarded to authors publishing in AMS journals, and formalize public accessibility and reuse licensing for published articles.

One of the implications of the Federal requirements is that all U.S. Federally funded research must be open access after one year. Currently, the AMS policy is open access after two years. To comply with the Federal mandate, the AMS will have to reduce the open access requirement to one year for U.S. federally funded research. At the PC meeting we discussed the implications of this. If we maintain our two year closed-access policy for papers resulting from research that is not federally funded, this would create a dichotomy for our authors where some would have a two-year policy and others a one year policy. **The PC recommends that Council adopt a new policy of open access after one year for all AMS publications so that we comply with CHORUS and all authors publishing in AMS journals are treated equally.**

## **19. ORCID Identifiers**

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) is a non-profit organization supported by a global community of research organizations, publishers, funders, professional associations, and other stakeholders in the research ecosystem. ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes each researcher from every other researcher and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between the researcher and their professional activities ensuring that their work is recognized. In effect, ORCID is like a social security number for researchers, a unique identifier. AMS promotes author registration for ORCIDs via all the journal submission sites. While ORCID registration has been completely voluntary for authors publishing in AMS journals, AMS Publications plans to make it a requirement for authors within the next year. ORCID identifiers help greatly in disambiguating authors with similar names, and allow authors to compile a full and independent record of their scholarly contributions. AMS's move to require ORCIDs from authors is in line with other publishers: organizations requiring ORCIDs as of 2016 include PLOS, The Royal Society, AGU, IEEE, and AAAS.

## **20. Data Citation and Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines**

The PC continues to work with the Board on Data Stewardship to promote data citation in AMS publications. At the PC meeting, at-large member, Vanda Grubisic, Director, EOL/NCAR informed the PC about efforts at NCAR to put .doi identifiers on all historical and future data sets collected by EOL. The PC discussed how we could promote TOP guidelines. Since this is a rapidly evolving concept, the PC asked Vanda to work with the AMS Board on Data Stewardship to further develop best practices beyond those already established last year and covered in the AMS guide to authors. PC current compliance with TOP guidelines is summarized in Table 6.



	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Citation Standards</b>	Journal encourages citation of data, code, and materials, or says nothing	Journal describes citation of data in guidelines to authors with clear rules and examples.	Article provides appropriate citation for data and materials used consistent with journal's author guidelines.	Article is not published until providing appropriate citation for data and materials following journal's author guidelines.
<b>Data Transparency</b>	Journal encourages data sharing, or says nothing	Article states whether data are available, and, if so, where to access them.	Data must be posted to a trusted repository. Exceptions must be identified at article submission.	Data must be posted to a trusted repository, and reported analyses will be reproduced independently prior to publication.
<b>Analytic Methods (Code) Transparency</b>	Journal encourages code sharing, or says nothing	Article states whether code is available, and, if so, where to access them.	Code must be posted to a trusted repository. Exceptions must be identified at article submission.	Code must be posted to a trusted repository, and reported analyses will be reproduced independently prior to publication.

**Table 5: AMS Current Status with compliance with TOPS guidelines (yellow)**

## 21. Publication of abstracts in foreign languages

One of the goals of the AMS in the next century of its history is to more fully engage meteorological societies in other countries. This effort is currently underway with formal agreements with the Chinese, Australian, Indian, and Canadian Meteorological Societies. In line with this international focus on the future, the PC considered whether the AMS should consider publishing abstracts in other languages. This concept was first floated as a possibility during our recent engagement with the Chinese Meteorological Society. AMS representatives visited Beijing in October 2015, and representatives from the Chinese Meteorological Society in turn attended the PC meetings in both January and May 2016. Currently some non-AMS journals (not meteorological) provide abstracts in more than one language. The PC discussed whether the AMS consider something similar, as a way of expanding the readership in key languages. The PC established an ad-hoc committee (Rauber, McFarquhar, Friedman and Fernau) to investigate the costs and complexities of such an endeavor. The PC has no recommendation at this time, but wanted the Council to be aware of this as we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society.

## 22. Should AMS pursue compiling metrics beside citations?

Other metrics besides citations are coming into common use on some journal websites. The PC considered whether the AMS should adopt such metrics. Typical additional metrics are *downloads* and *views*. After discussion, the PC recommended that the AMS avoid using these metrics, since they have the potential to be gamed and have little use beyond inflating the ego of the authors.

### **23. Corrigenda/Publishers notes**

Starting last year, small press errors and typos can now be fixed online (full text and pdf) via a Publisher's Note footnote instead of a formal corrigendum. We have found this to be an efficient and quick way to address small corrections. For larger errors (especially if author generated) a corrigendum is still preferred.

### **24. Reviewer and Author education**

The PC discussed developing video training guides to be put on AMS publication websites that would provide basic guidance and training for new reviewers and authors of AMS papers. These videos would supplement the author's and reviewer's guides. Dave Schultz and Gwendolyn Whittaker are looking into this.

## Appendix A: Editorial Board

*Updated September 30, 2016*

Robert M. Rauber, AMS Publications Commissioner

### *JOURNAL OF THE ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES* (14 EDITORS)

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Renyi Zhang	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
Wojciech Grabowski	Editor	01-2012	12-2016	2-yr extension
Chun-Chieh Wu	Editor	07-2013	06-2017	2-yr extension
<b>Walter Robinson</b>	<b>CE Phys/Dyn</b>	<b>01-2015</b>	<b>12-2017</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
<b>William Brune</b>	<b>CE Chem/Aer</b>	<b>01-2015</b>	<b>12-2017</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
Anne Smith	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Olivier Pauluis	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Robert Fovell	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Matthew Parker	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Zhaohua Wu	Editor	01-2013	12-2017	2-yr extension
Lorraine Remer	Editor	01-2013	12-2017	2 yr extension
Ping Yang	Editor	04-2015	03-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Sonia Lasher-Trapp	Editor	08-2015	07-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Sukyoung Lee	Editor	09-2015	08-2018	Initial 3-yr term

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

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Paquita Zuidema	Editor	01-2013	12-2016	Initial 1-yr extension
Todd Sikora	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
Andrew Jones	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
Sandra Yuter	Editor	01-2012	12-2016	Initial 2-yr extension
David Wolff	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
Bart Geerts	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Andrew Ellis	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Steve (Qi) Hu	Editor	01-2013	12-2017	Initial 2-yr extension
<b>David A. Kristovich</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>01-2012</b>	<b>12-2018</b>	<b>2nd 2-yr extension</b>

**JOURNAL OF ATMOSPHERIC AND OCEANIC TECHNOLOGY (10 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Steve D. Miller (A)	Editor	01-2012	12-2016	2-yr extension
Kirsti Salonen (A)	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Gustavo Goni (O)	Editor	07-2015	12-2017	Initial 2.5-yr term
Carlos Lozano (O)	Editor	07-2015	12-2017	Initial 2.5-yr term
<b>William J. Emery (O)</b>	<b>CE-Ocean</b>	<b>01-2016</b>	<b>12-2018</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
<b>Luca Baldini (A)</b>	<b>CE-Atmos</b>	<b>01-2016</b>	<b>12-2018</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
Tetsu Hara (O)	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Evan Ruzanski (A)	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Denis Volkov (O)	Editor	04-2016	03-2019	Initial 3-yr term
Tristan L'Ecuyer (A)	Editor	04-2016	03-2019	Initial 3-yr term

**JOURNAL OF CLIMATE (22 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Judith Perlwitz	Editor	07-2013	04-2016	4 mo extension
Brian Soden	Editor	01-2010	06-2016	1.5 yr extension
<b>Tony Broccoli</b>	<b>Co-Chief Ed</b>	<b>01-2010</b>	<b>12-2016</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>
Mingfang Ting	Editor	07-2014	12-2016	Initial 2.5-yr term
Aiguo Dai	Editor	01-2011	12-2016	2-yr extension
John Walsh	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
Tim Delsole	Editor	01-2010	12-2016	2 yr extension
Joseph Barsugli	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
Rosana Nieto-Ferreira	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
Michael Coe	Editor	07-2011	12-2016	2-yr extension
<b>John Chiang</b>	<b>Co-Chief Ed</b>	<b>01-2015</b>	<b>12-2017</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
Oleg Saenko	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Pierre Friedlingstein	Editor	01-2013	12-2017	2 yr extension
Steve Klein	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Tim Li	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Sharon Sessions	Editor	03-2015	12-2017	Initial 2.75-yr term
Matt Barlow	Editor	07-2015	06-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Hisashi Nakamura	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Peter Huybers	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Mat Collins	Editor	03-2016	02-2019	Initial 3-yr term
Jason Evans	Editor	04-2016	03-2019	Initial 3-yr term
Darryn Waugh	Editor	04-2016	03-2019	Initial 3-yr term

*Monthly Weather Review (20 Editors)*

<b>Editor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Start</b>	<b>Term End</b>	<b>Current Appointment</b>
Josh P. Hacker	Editor	01-2011	12-2017	1-yr extension
Hugh Morrison	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Dan Kirshbaum	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Yvette Richardson	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Hilary Weller	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Jenny Sun	Editor	01-2013	12-2017	2-yr extension
Pamela Heinselman	Editor	01-2013	12-2017	2-yr extension
Carolyn A. Reynolds	Editor	01-2013	12-2017	2-yr extension
Todd Lane	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Ryan Torn	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Russ Schumacher	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Matt Eastin	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Peter Jan van Leeuwen	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
<b>David Schultz</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>01-2008</b>	<b>12-2018</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>
Jeff Anderson	Editor	01-2014	12-2018	2-yr extension
Almut Gassmann	Editor	01-2014	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
Paul E. Roundy	Editor	01-2012	12-2017	1-yr extension
Ron McTaggart-Cowan	Editor	01-2012	12-2018	2-yr extension
Altug Aksoy	Editor	01-2014	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term

***WEATHER AND FORECASTING (5 EDITORS)***

<b>Editor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Start</b>	<b>Term End</b>	<b>Current Appointment</b>
<b>Paul Markowski</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>01-2012</b>	<b>12-2016</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>
Philip Schumacher	Editor	01-2010	12-2016	2-yr extension
Brian Ancell	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Yuqing Wang	Editor	01-2013	12-2017	2-yr extension
Lynn McMurdie	Editor	03-2016	02-2019	Initial 3-yr term

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

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Jim Lerczak	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
Herle Mercier	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
Karen Heywood	Editor	01-2013	12-2017	2-yr extension
Greg Foltz	Editor	03-2015	12-2017	Initial 2.75-yr term
Jody Klymak	Editor	09-2013	12-2017	2-yr extension
Paola Cessi	Editor	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term
<b>Jerome Smith</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>01-2016</b>	<b>12-2018</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
Ilker Fer	Editor	03-2016	02-2019	Initial 3-yr term

**JOURNAL OF HYDROMETEOROLOGY (6 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Steve Margulis	Editor	01-2014	5-2017	5 month extension
Andrew Wood	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
Faisal Hossain	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
<b>Christa D. Peters-Lidard</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>01-2012</b>	<b>12-2018</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> 2-yr extension</b>
L. Ruby Leung	Editor	01-2012	12-2018	2 <sup>nd</sup> 2-yr extension
F. Joseph (Joe) Turk	Editor	01-2012	12-2018	2 <sup>nd</sup> 2-yr extension

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

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
David Letson	Editor	01-2012	12-2016	2-yr extension
Henry Huntington	Editor	01-2014	12-2016	Initial 3-yr term
<b>Amanda Lynch</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>06-2013</b>	<b>12-2017</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>
Olga Wilhelmi	Editor	04-2015	03-2018	Initial 3 term

**EARTH INTERACTIONS (2 EDITORS)**

Editor	Position	Term Start	Term End	Current Appointment
Joseph Santanello	Editor	01-2015	12-2017	Initial 3-yr term
<b>Rezaul Mahmood</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>01-2010</b>	<b>12-2016</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>

**MONOGRAPHS (1 EDITOR)**

<b>Editor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Start</b>	<b>Term End</b>	<b>Current Appointment</b>
<b>Greg McFarquhar</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>01-2015</b>	<b>12-2017</b>	<b>Initial 3-yr term</b>
Wojtek Grabowski	Editor			ICE Monograph

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

<b>Editor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Start</b>	<b>Term End</b>	<b>Current Appointment</b>
Joe Klemp	At large	01-2007	12-2016	2-yr extension
David Jorgensen (PSPC chair)	At large	01-2013	12-2017	2-yr extension
Vanda Grubišić	At large	01-2016	12-2018	Initial 3-yr term

**GLOSSARY OF METEOROLOGY (1 EDITOR)**

<b>Editor</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Start</b>	<b>Term End</b>	<b>Current Appointment</b>
<b>Mary Cairns</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>	<b>01-2013</b>	<b>12-2017</b>	<b>2-yr extension</b>

## EDITORIAL

### Meteorological Monographs and Special Collections

The purpose of this editorial is to introduce the new approach the American Meteorological Society (AMS) has taken with Meteorological Monographs and to distinguish them from the special collections of journal articles. Moreover, whereas Meteorological Monographs were previously published like traditional hardbound books, henceforth they will be entirely open access and online, in addition to being available in print.

#### Goals of Meteorological Monographs

The AMS Meteorological Monographs series will consist of collections of review papers on topics in which rapid developments are currently being made, as well as collections of papers summarizing state-of-the-art knowledge (e.g., from recent special topical meetings). In general, monographs are envisioned as a collection of papers that provide a thorough background on a general topic area and thus are expected to have comprehensive reference lists so that someone new to the topic could be guided to the appropriate sources of original literature. Monograph papers may contain some new findings and previously unpublished material, but papers that only describe findings of recent research projects or field studies are more appropriate for special collections published in an AMS journal. Usually, monograph papers are written by invited authors. Appropriate material for monographs includes collections of review articles (such as those based on special topical meetings) and tribute volumes. Because monograph papers are different from submissions to other AMS journals, longer articles might be expected and the normal page limitations of AMS articles would not apply. Furthermore, to increase the impact of monographs, all papers to be published in a monograph collection will be open access. All monograph articles published by AMS will be available via the same website as AMS journal articles (<http://journals.ametsoc.org>).

#### Procedures for Monographs

It is the expectation that monograph papers will be submitted, reviewed, and published in the same manner as other articles. Although the organizing editors are responsible for proposing the collection, recruiting submissions, suggesting reviewers, deciding whether unsolicited papers are suitable for the collection, and writing the preface for the monograph, they will not act as peer-review editors. Instead, the chief editor for Meteorological Monographs will serve as series editor and there may also be a separate volume editor. The volume editor will be different from the organizing editors and will not be a coauthor of any paper in the monograph collection to ensure the review process is rigorous.

Organizers wishing to propose a monograph should refer to the “Organizing a Monograph” web page ([www.ametsoc.org/PubsOrganizeMonograph](http://www.ametsoc.org/PubsOrganizeMonograph)). Once a new monograph request is received, it will be reviewed by Meteorological Monograph Series Chief Editor Greg McFarquhar. There will then be a telephone conference among the chief editor, organizing editors, and staff from AMS. At this meeting, the organization of the volume, timeline for monograph preparation, editing process, and funding sources will be discussed. Thereafter, a decision will be made on whether to proceed with the proposed monograph.



The possibility of a printed bound copy of the monograph will also be considered and discussed at the organizational teleconference described above; the decision on whether to print the monograph will be made on the basis of the wishes of any funding agency and the perceived market for a hard-copy product. In any event, all future monographs will be made available online in much the same way that journal articles and special collections are published. Thus, individual chapters of monographs will be ready for download in an early-release format as soon as they are approved during the review process to ensure the material is publicly available in a timely manner. Combined with all chapters being open access, this will increase the exposure and impact of the monograph chapters. (Note that AMS Meteorological Monographs currently found online at [Springer.com/AMS](http://Springer.com/AMS) and through SpringerLink are legacy volumes, published in 1947–2013, and future AMS monographs will not be available on that site.)

### **Goals of Special Collections**

Special collections published in AMS journals are collections of articles on similar topics that fall under the guidance of the individual journals. Although review papers can also be part of a special collection, it is expected that the majority of articles published as a special collection will consist of new and previously unreviewed material. Suitable material for special collections include results from field studies, papers from meetings or conferences on specialized topics, or papers on a topic of current interest in the atmospheric, oceanic, and related sciences.

### **Procedures for Special Collections**

Organizers wishing to propose a special collection should contact the chief editors of the journals to which submissions are planned, and the relevant chief editors and the publications commissioner will consider approval. It is the expectation that special-collection papers will be submitted, reviewed, and published following the same requirements and standards as other papers submitted to AMS publications. The proposers of a special collection are encouraged to recruit submissions, suggest reviewers, and recommend whether unsolicited papers are suitable for the collection. Collection organizers do not act as peer-review editors. The peer-review process for each paper will be handled by a regular journal editor, assigned by the journal's chief editor.

Once accepted for publication, special-collection papers are made available online in the same way as standard journal articles. Special-collection papers appear alongside the other papers of the journal, with a graphic logo on their title page that identifies them as part of a particular special collection. All papers in a special collection are linked to that collection's web page. When all papers within a collection have been published, there can be an option to print a hard-copy version of all of the papers in a bound volume. AMS staff can work with collection organizers to determine an estimated cost for hard-copy print volumes.

*Greg M. McFarquhar*  
Chief Editor, Meteorological Monographs

*Robert M. Rauber*  
Publications Commissioner

## Appendix D

### WCAS Editorial announcing discontinuation of page charges

VOLUME 8

WEATHER, CLIMATE, AND SOCIETY

JANUARY 2016

#### EDITORIAL

##### **Weather, Climate, and Society Eliminates Author Charges**

As AMS Executive Director Keith Seitter wrote in the 45 Beacon column in the December issue of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, this past fall the AMS Council made the very important decision to eliminate all author charges associated with publishing in *Weather, Climate, and Society (WCAS)*. He wrote, “This change in policy acknowledges that the author base for this journal is different from that of the other AMS journals, and highlights the commitment of the Society to engage with those in the social sciences as integral members of the AMS community (Seitter 2015).”

He goes on to explain, “When *WCAS* was started, it followed essentially the same model as the other AMS journals, including a business model that depended on both subscription revenue and charges levied to authors’ institutions to defray some of the costs of publication. The author charge model has been nearly ubiquitous across the physical sciences in this country, and has become even more common internationally as open-access journals use author charges as the only income source to cover the expenses associated with publication. In the social sciences, however, the culture is different. If we want to attract the best work from that community, we need to match their culture to ensure the success of the journal. Social science research funding rarely covers publication fees, and as a result, social science journals typically depend solely on subscription revenue to cover their costs. Asking social science scholars wishing to publish in *WCAS* to honor author charges was a nonstarter for those in that community, so *WCAS* was begun with a liberal policy for extending waivers of author charges to social scientists wishing to publish there. (I would note here that for all AMS journals, the dual income stream provided by subscriptions and author charges has allowed the Society to be generous in waiving author charges for authors whose circumstances do not allow the charges to be honored.) Even with a liberal waiver policy, however, we found over time that the existence of author charges represented a deterrent for social scientists considering *WCAS* as a venue for publishing their research. Thus, the AMS Council’s recent decision to eliminate author charges represents a great step in further engaging the social sciences community as a true part of the AMS community.”

As Chief Editor of *WCAS*, I fully endorse this new policy and feel strongly that *WCAS* will play an ever-growing role in the increasing engagement between the traditional AMS community and the social sciences. As stated in its terms of reference, *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. . . . Because of the interdisciplinary subject matter, articles that involve both natural/physical scientists and social scientists are particularly encouraged.” This new policy should greatly encourage that interdisciplinary interaction. I look forward to a very bright future for *WCAS* as it matures into an essential outlet for research in this growing and important field.

Amanda H. Lynch,  
WCAS Chief Editor,  
Brown University

#### REFERENCE

Seitter, K., 2015: *Weather, Climate, and Society* eliminates author charges. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, **96** (12), 2199.

## **Appendix E: Time to First Decision Histograms and Descriptive Statistics YE 2015**

This document contains a series of histograms, overall and by journal of times to initial decision. The manuscripts used for the times depicted in these histograms are the “final disposition” cohort from the 2015 year-end reporting (3251 total manuscripts). The cohort contains articles and expedited contributions that received final dispositions in 2015, excluding editorials, comment/replies, corrigenda, manuscripts transferred out (manuscripts transferred into a journal are retained), and manuscripts withdrawn before being assigned to a handling editor.

The days to first decision field used in these histograms is defined as the number of days elapsed between the technical check completion date and the first decision date. The calculation for these histograms differs from the initial decision times in the historical year-end journal reports in that the time to complete technical check is excluded.

The remainder of the document consists of histograms and some descriptive statistics. 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  
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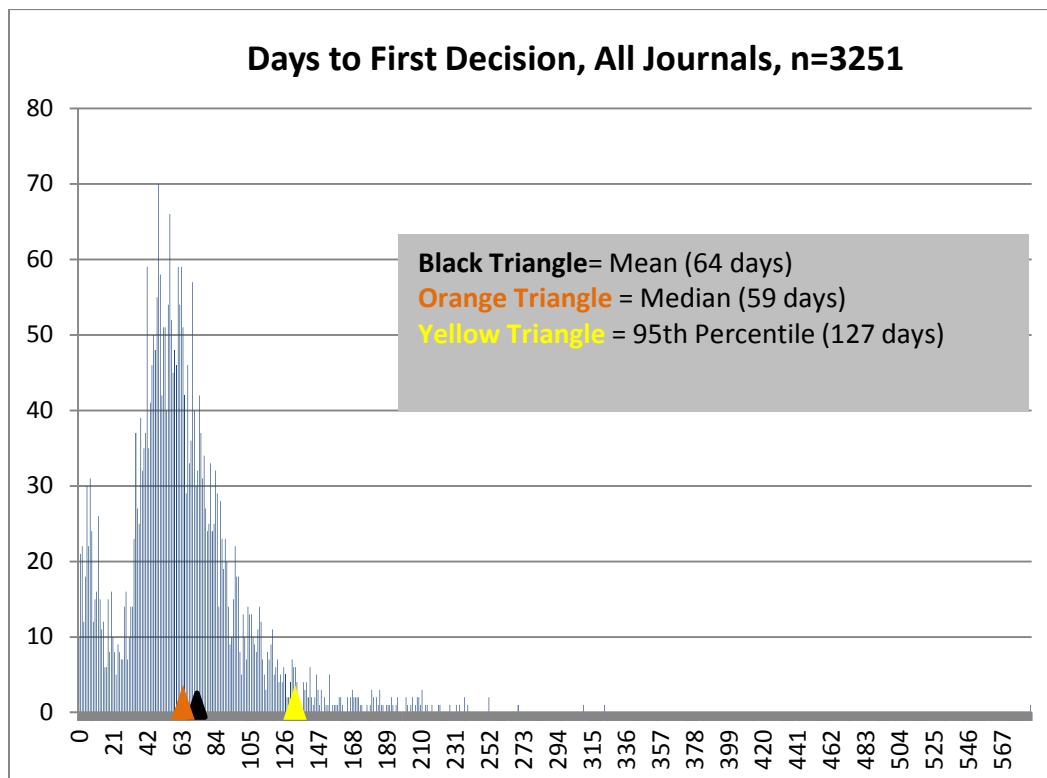
## All Journals (excluding Monographs)-Histograms and Descriptive Statistics

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

Mean	63.6
Median	59
Mode	49
Standard Deviation	37.7
Minimum	0
Maximum	585
Count	3251
75th percentile	79
95th percentile	127

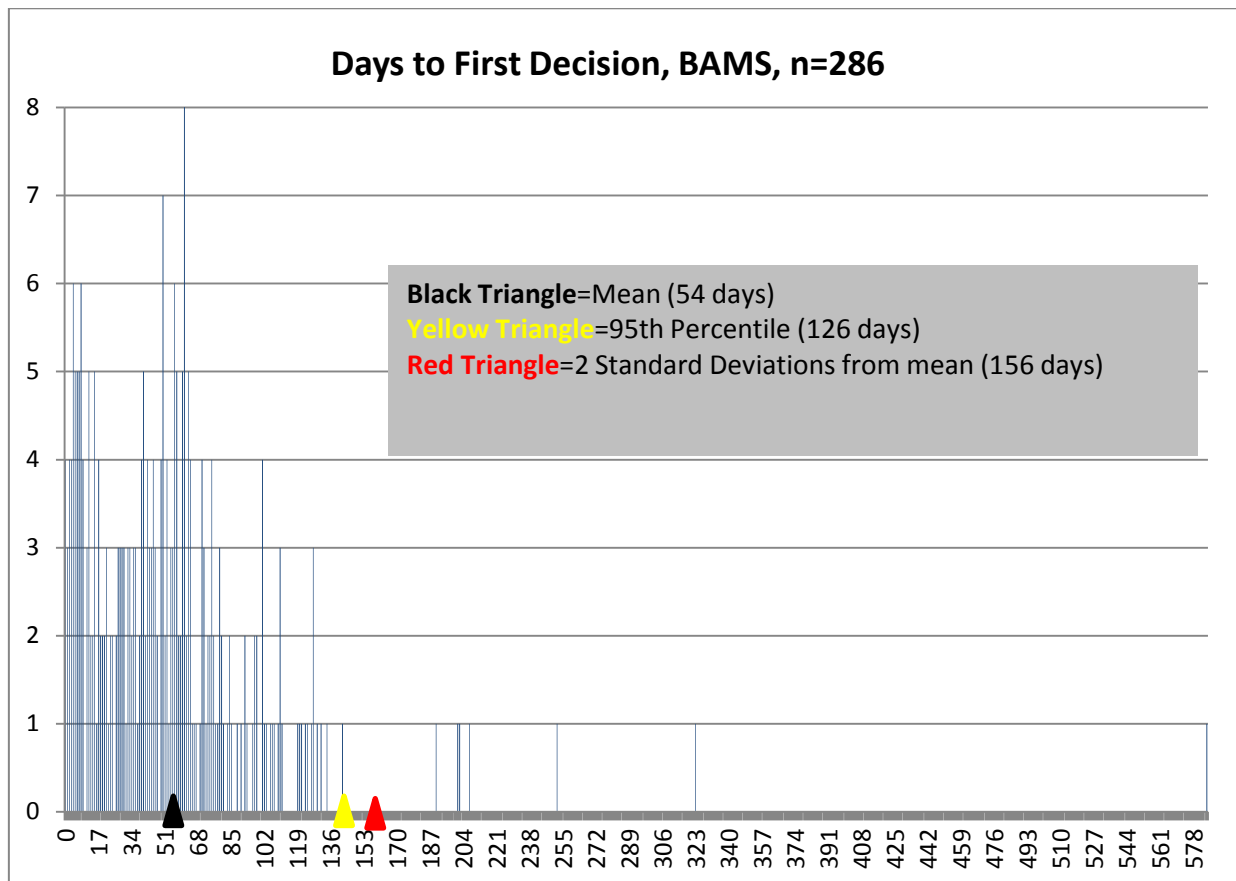
### *Number/percent of manuscripts with waivers*

Waivers	Total	Percent (excluding BAMS)
Full	54	1.8%
Partial	139	4.7%
Total	193	6.5%

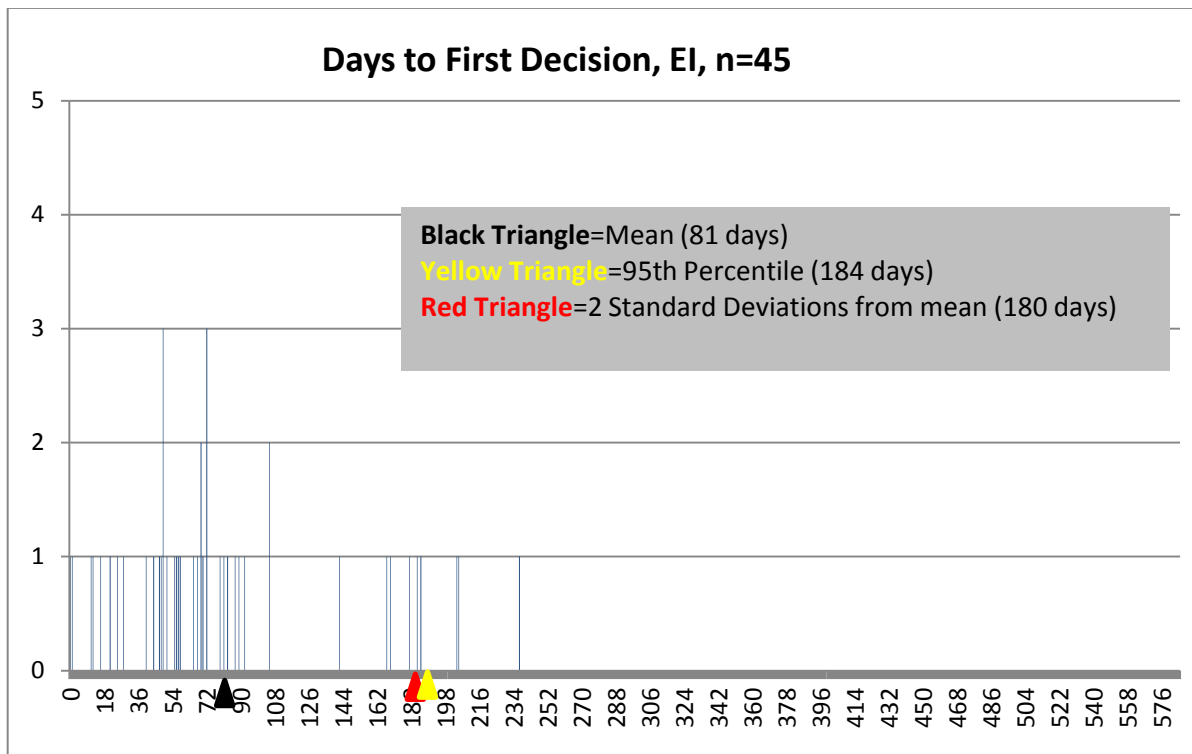


Note: 66% of the first decisions were made within the stated goal (70 days). 160 manuscripts (4.9%) exceeded the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile (127 days), and 120 manuscripts (3.7%) had first decision days that were more than two standard deviations away from the mean (139 days) for all journals.

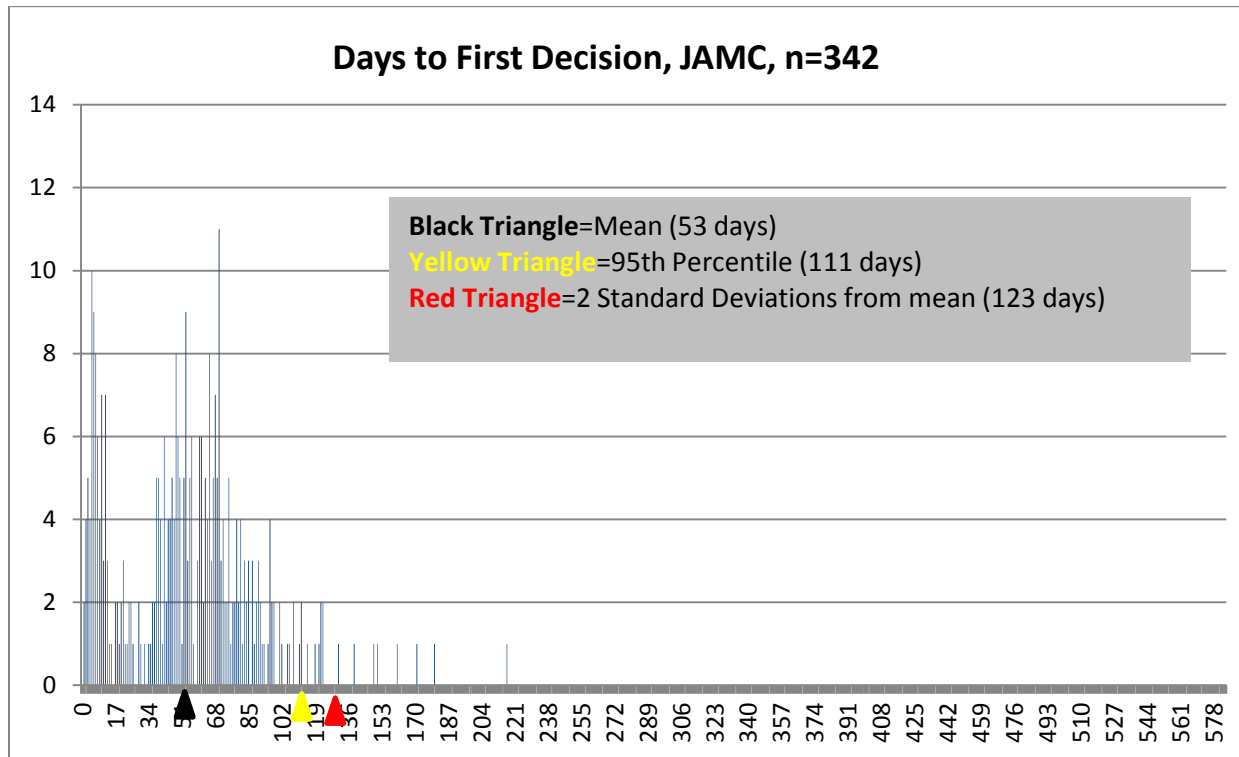
### Time to First Decision Histograms by Journal



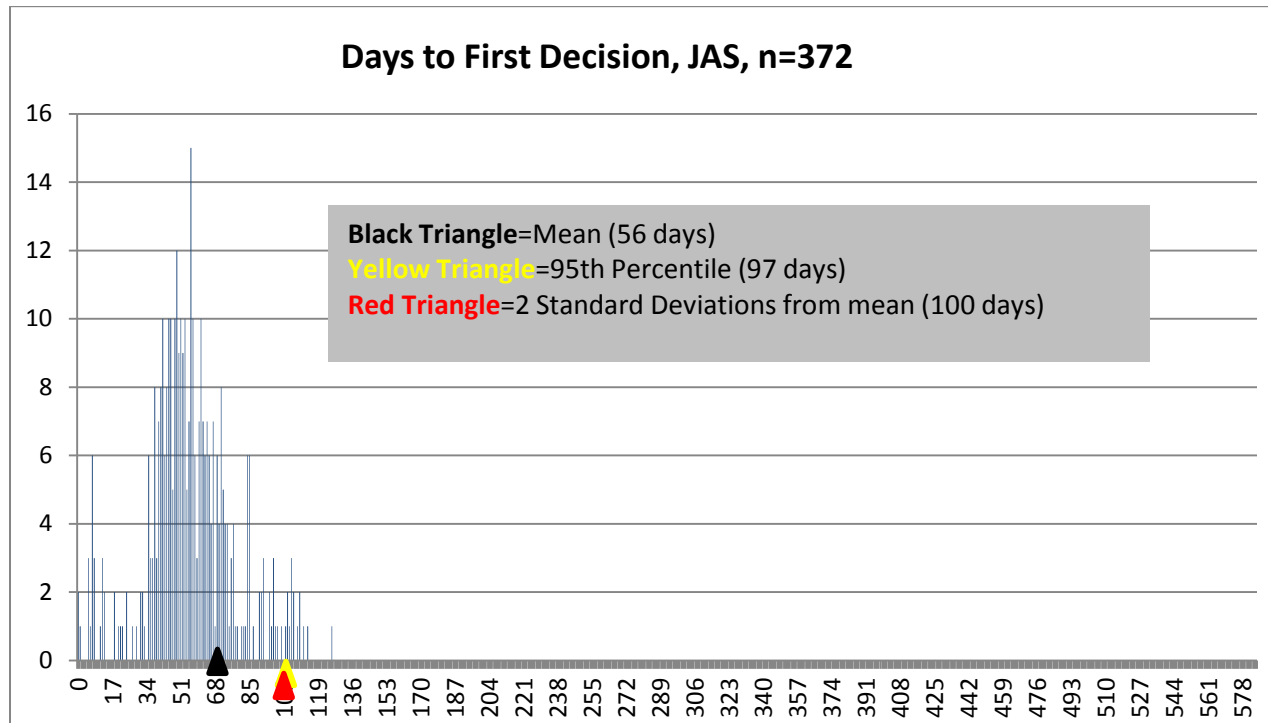
- The average days to first decision unchanged over last year.
- 76% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than or equal to the stated goal (70 days).
- 14 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile for the journal (126 days).
  - One SME made the final decision on 9 of these manuscripts, and five other editors were assigned to one each.
  - Seven of these manuscripts had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (156 days).



- The average days to initial decision improved by 12 days, and the number of final dispositions nearly doubled.
- 56% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than or equal to the stated goal (70 days).
- Four manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile for the manuscript (184 days), and five manuscripts were greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (180 days).
  - All but one of the five manuscripts were assigned to one editor.

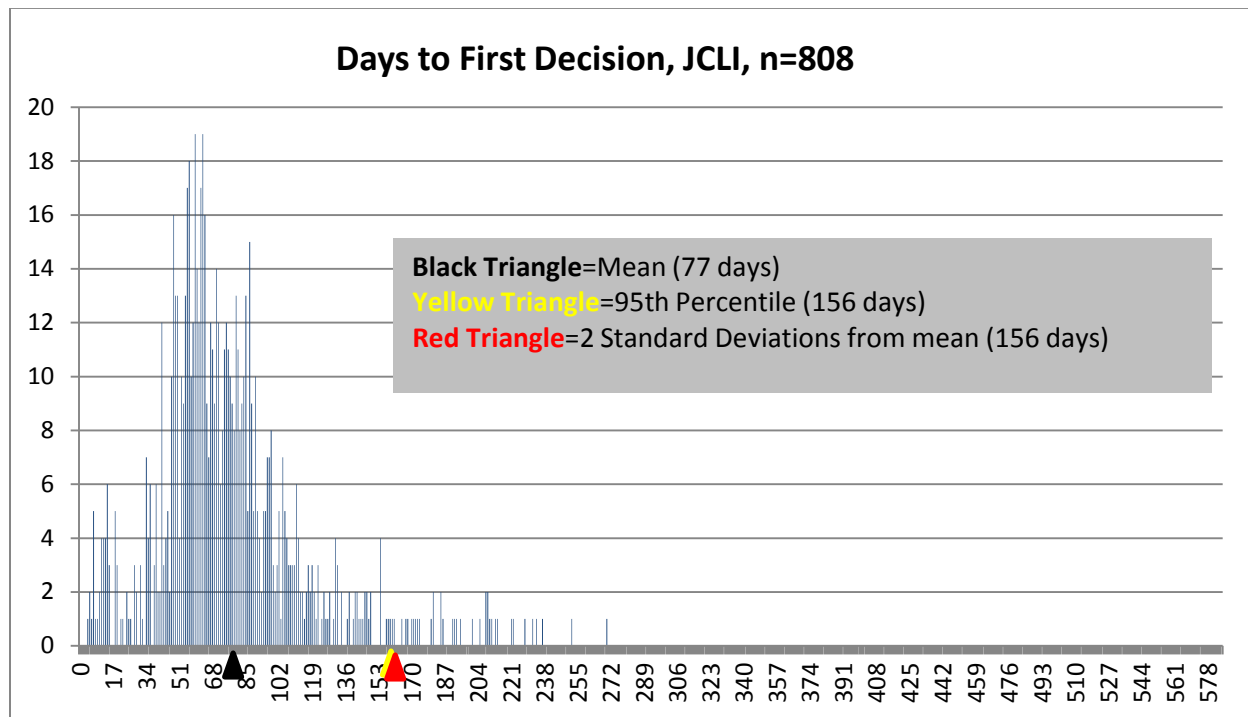


- The average days to initial decision improved by 12 days, and the number of final dispositions increased by nearly 13% from 2014.
- 75% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than or equal to the stated goal (70 days), a 21% improvement.
- 17 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (111 days).
  - Three manuscripts were handled by retiring editors, and the remaining fourteen were handled by five active editors.
  - Eight (split evenly among 4 editors, one of whom has retired) manuscripts had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (123 days).

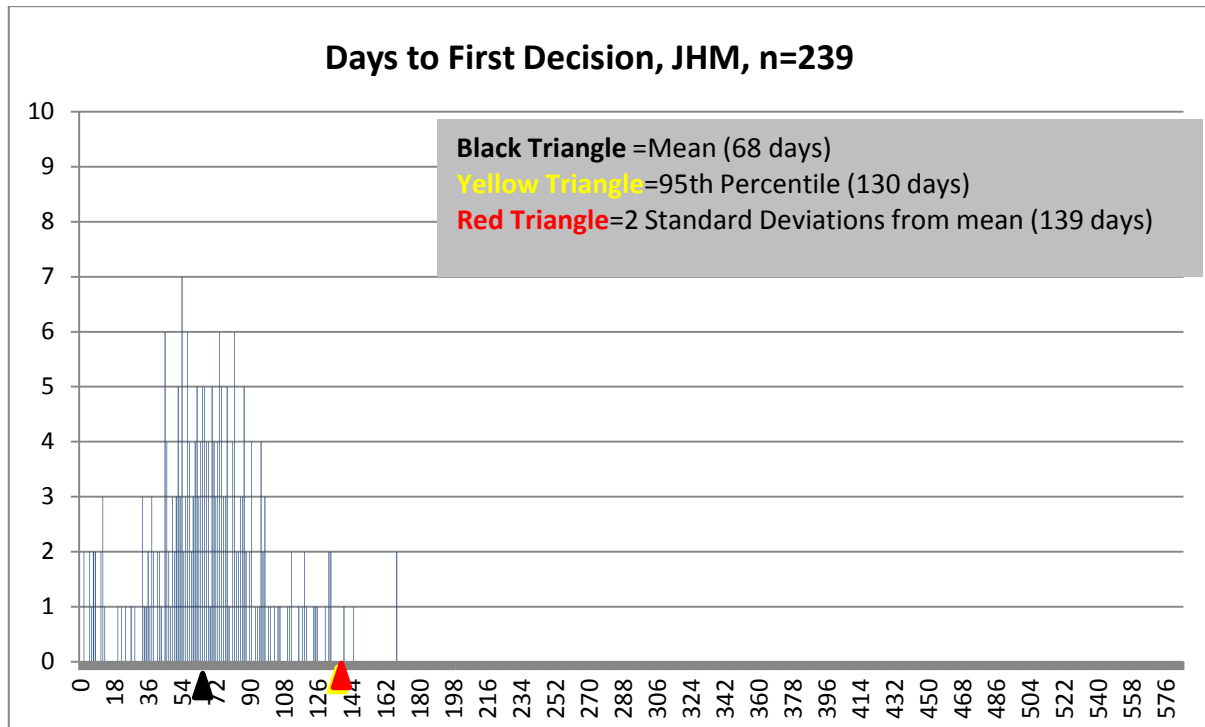


- The average days to initial decision improved by 3 days, and the number of final dispositions decreased by 1% from 2014.
- 79% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than or equal to the stated goal (70 days).
- 18 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (97 days).
  - Four of these manuscripts were handled by retiring editors and remaining 14 manuscripts were handled by 6 active editors.
  - Sixteen manuscripts had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (100 days).

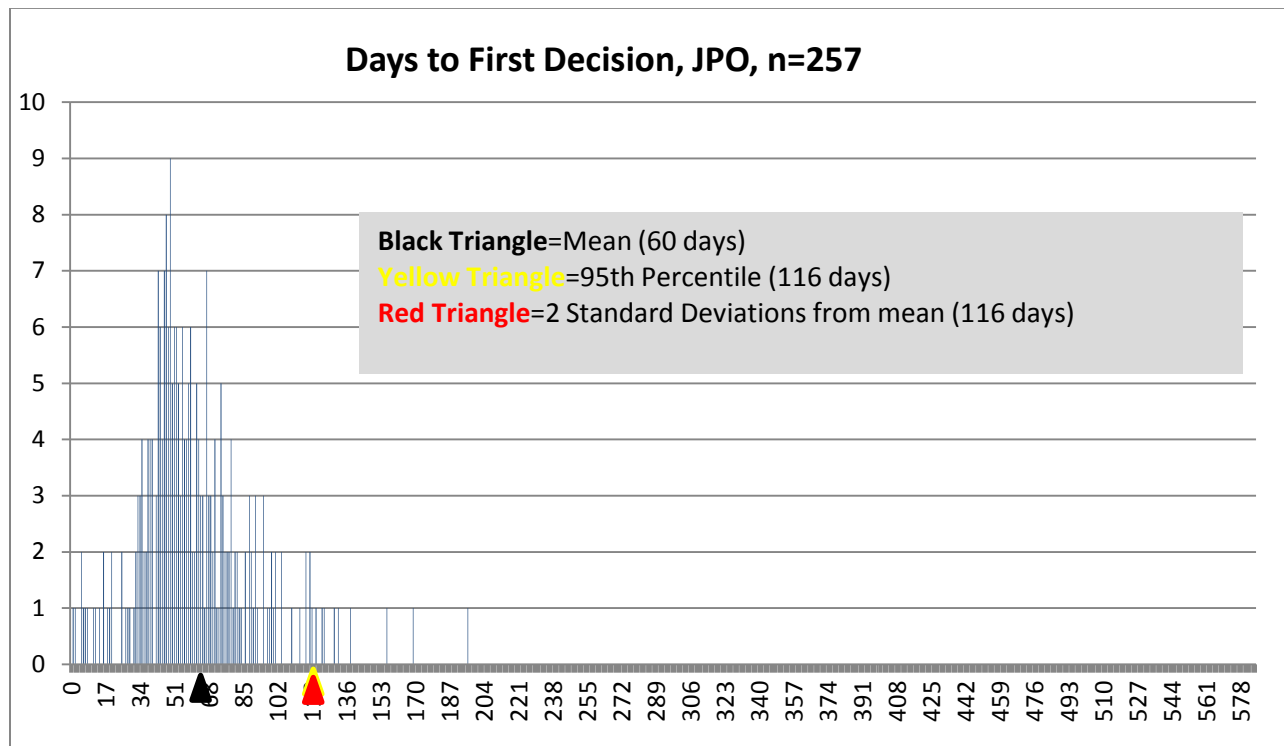




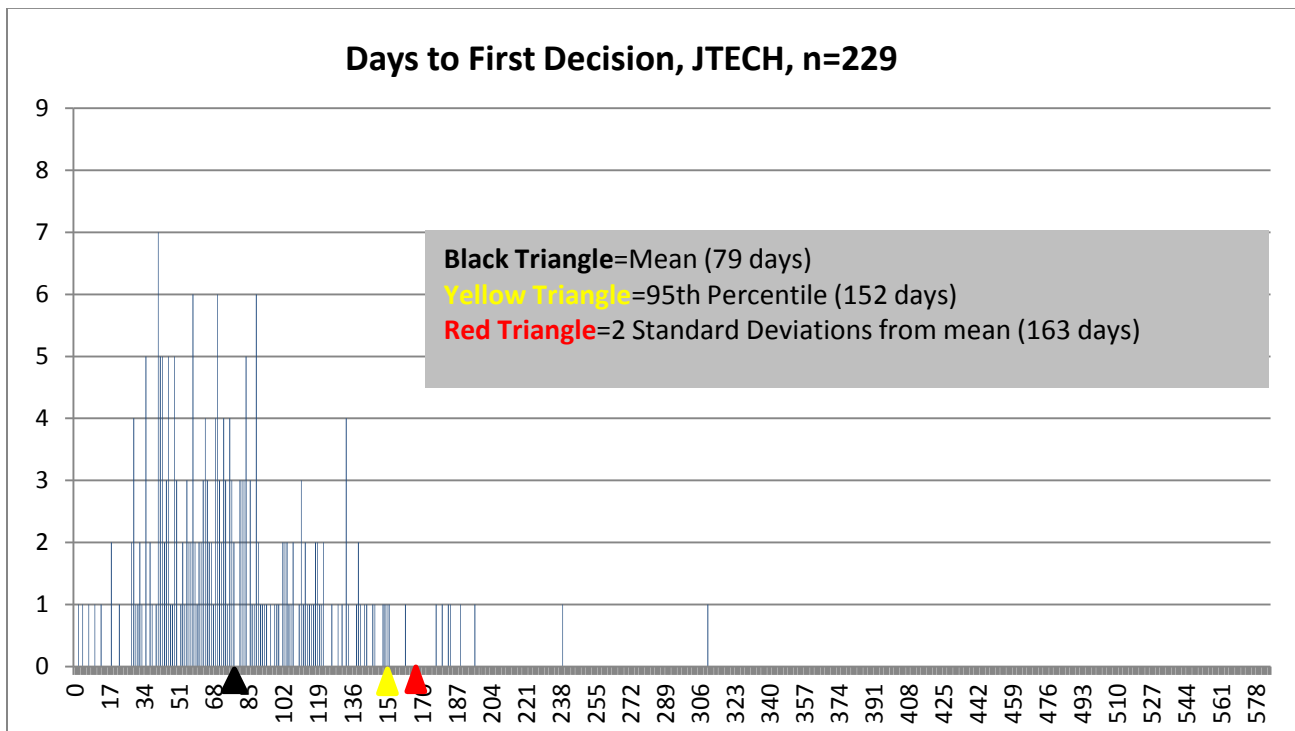
- The average days to initial decision improved by 3 days, and the number of final dispositions increased by 1% from 2014.
- 52% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than or equal to the stated goal (70 days).
- 41 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (156 days).
  - Four of these manuscripts were handled by retiring editors, and the remaining 37 were handled by 13 active editors, with one editor handling 14.



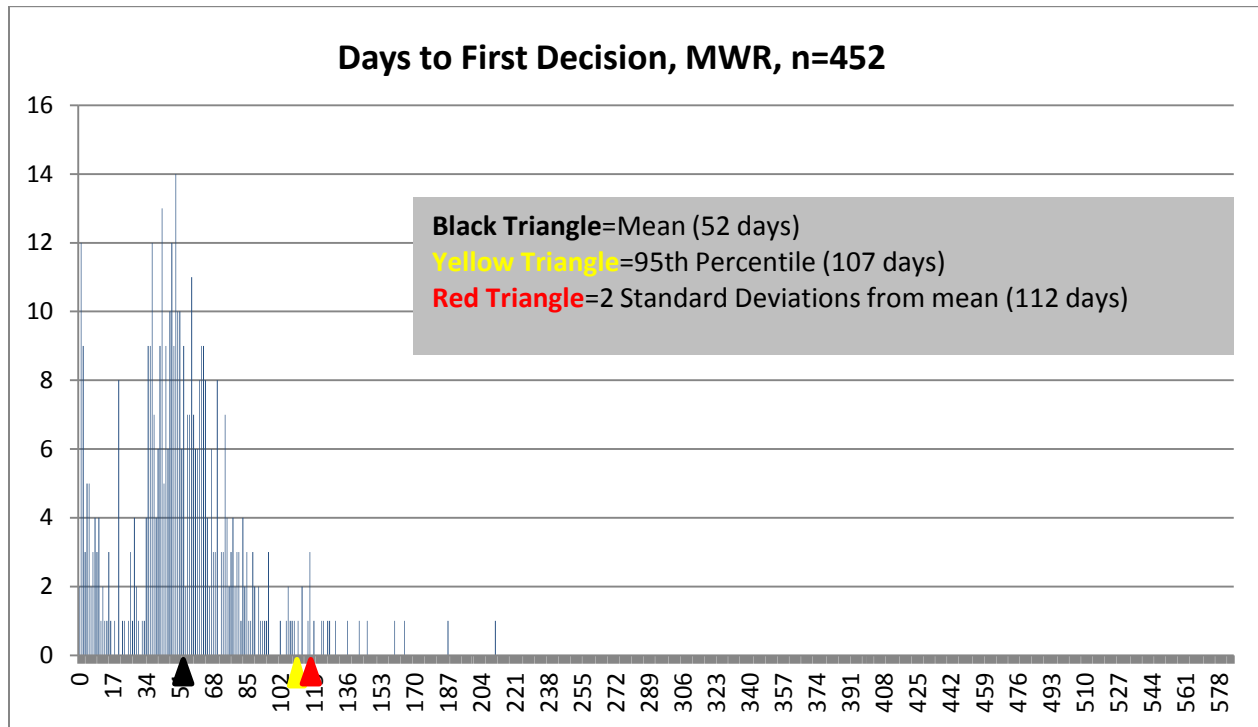
- The average days to initial decision improved by 6 days, and the number of final dispositions increased 11% from 2014.
- 56% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less or equal to than the stated goal (70 days).
- 8 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (130 days).
  - All of these manuscripts were assigned to three active editors, with one handling four and a second handling three.
  - Four manuscripts had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (139 days).



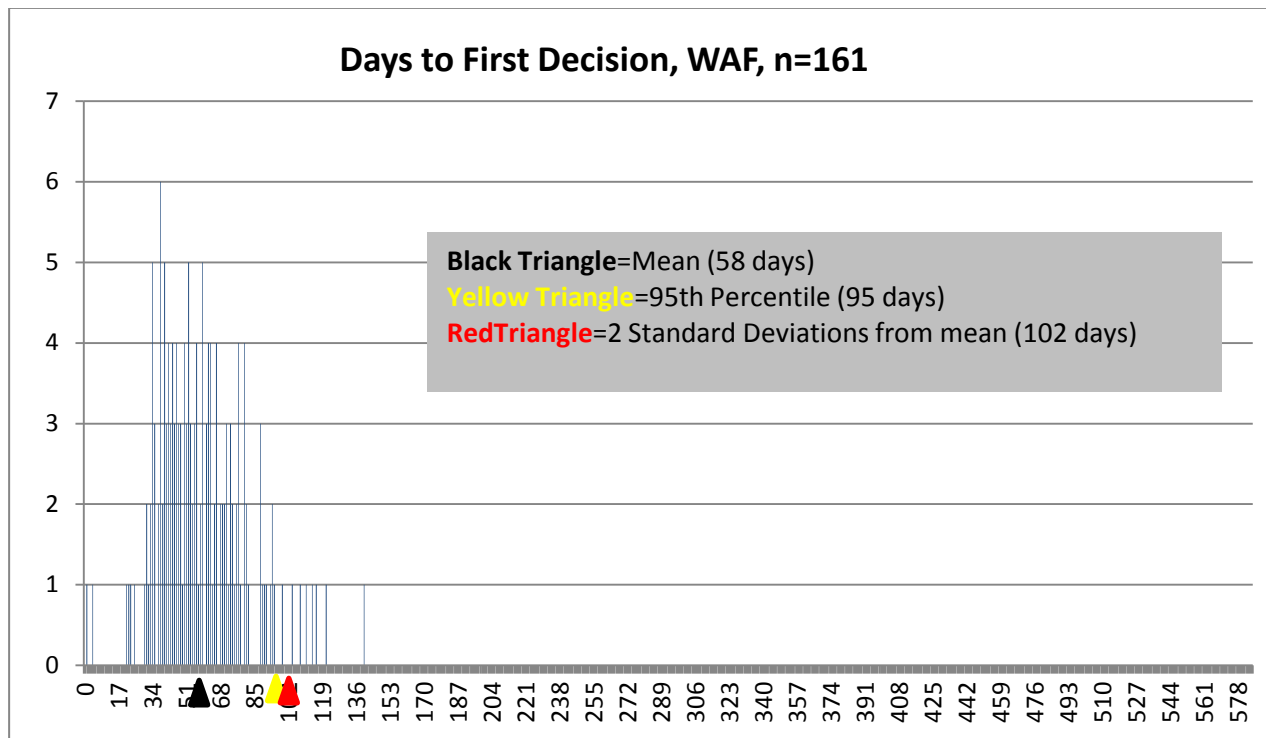
- The average days to initial decision improved by 2 days, and the number of final dispositions increased by 6% from 2014.
- 72% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less or equal to the stated goal (70 days).
- 12 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (116 days).
  - All but three were assigned to five active editors, with one handling four manuscripts.



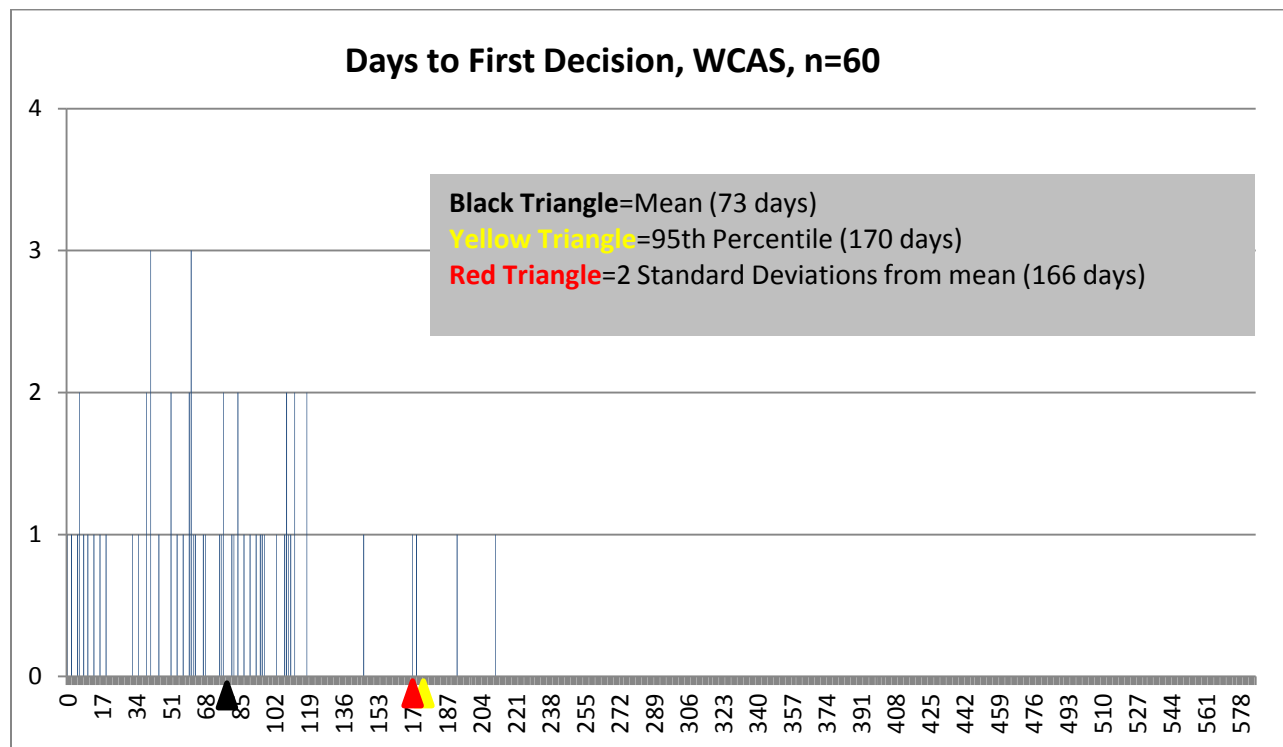
- The average days to initial decision improved by 2 days, and the number of final dispositions decreased by nearly 12% from 2014.
- 50% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than or equal to the stated goal (70 days).
- Eleven manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (152 days).
  - Six were JTECH-A manuscripts assigned to two current and one retired editor, with one current editor assigned to three manuscripts.
  - The five JTECH-O manuscripts were assigned to two current and retired editors.
  - Eight manuscripts had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean, split evenly between JTECH-O and -A (163 days).



- The average days to initial decision improved by 2 days, and the number of final dispositions increased by 13% from 2014.
- 81% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
  - 22 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (107 days), 19 of these were greater than greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (112 days).
  - All but one of these manuscripts were assigned to eight current editors, with one assigned to six manuscripts, and another to five.



- The average days to initial decision improved by 2 days, and the number of final dispositions increased by nearly 5% from 2014.
- 74% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- 8 manuscripts had days to first decision greater than the 95th percentile (95 days).
  - All but two were assigned to three current editors (one editor handled four manuscripts), and the remaining two manuscripts were handled by a retiring editor.
  - All but one of these manuscripts also had days to first decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (102 days).



- The average days to first decision improved by 32 days, and the number of final dispositions increased by 5% from 2014.
- 52% of the manuscripts had days to first decision less than the stated goal (70 days).
- Four manuscripts had days to first decision greater than decision greater than two standard deviations away from the mean (166 days).
  - Three of these manuscripts were greater than the 95th percentile (170 days), and all were assigned to a retired editor.