

Editorial Status of AWPL

THE year 2022 has been again a fruitful year for the Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S), with a partial return to face-to-face conferences. This has led to a further increase in the number of submissions to the IEEE ANTENNAS AND WIRELESS PROPAGATION LETTERS (AWPL), with a manuscript count reaching nearly 3100 in 2022 (see Fig. 1, black curve). The AWPL editorial team has worked tirelessly to process this high volume of manuscripts efficiently, and the average time from submission to decision has remained at 25 days (see Fig. 1, blue curve). The time distribution in months is shown in Fig. 2 and further indicates that strongly delayed papers are infrequent. The fast turnaround of submissions is paramount to the identity of AWPL within the range of AP-S publications and supports the aim of rapid exchange of novel ideas in the community. The distribution of decisions is displayed in Fig. 3 and illustrates the selectivity of the review process. AWPL remains a leading journal in the field of antennas and propagation, and it attracts a broad readership from both academia and industry: In 2022, AWPL had 1.6 million paper downloads, consolidating its position as the most downloaded LETTERS within IEEE publications.

The combination of speed and rigor in the processing of manuscripts is possible thanks to the strong dedication of our associate editors (who are listed on the inside cover of each AWPL issue) and vast expertise of our reviewers (who are listed in the December AWPL issue). I take this occasion to thank all the volunteers involved in the review process. I am particularly indebted to the two senior associate editors (Profs. Alexander Yakovlev and Xiaoming Chen) and the team of around 40 associate editors for their commitment and professionalism. The top performers of the editorial board were announced in July at the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Symposium in Denver, CO, USA, and the recipients of our highly competitive certificates of recognition are listed on the AWPL website [1]. I am grateful to the associate editors who completed their terms in 2022: Profs./Drs. Shih-Yuan Chen, Francisco Falcone, Nima Ghalichechian, Yi Huang, Paolo Nepa, Sima Noghianian, Giacomo Oliveri, Mohammad Sharawi, Negar Tavassolian, and Jayanti Venkataraman. In the same time, we welcomed new members to the editorial board: Profs./Drs. Nicola Anselmi, Filippo Costa, Ebrahim Forati, Mohsen Khalily, Jessica Ruyle,

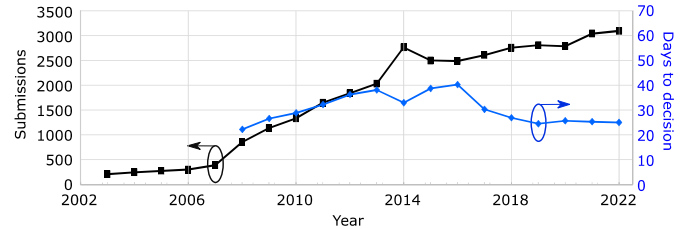


Fig. 1. Number of submissions and time from submission to decision (numbers for 2022 are projected from the data on 15 December).

and Ping Jack Soh. I would also like to thank Ms. Claire Sideri, AWPL editorial assistant, for her magnificent support in all aspects of the journal management, and to Ms. Camille Ventura and her team for the flawless production of the journal monthly issues.

Congratulations to Dorsch et al. [2], who received the Piergiorgio L. E. Uslenghi Prize for the best letter published in AWPL in 2021. The prize is competitively awarded by the Award Committee of the AP-S based on nominations by the AWPL editorial board.

Since 2018, November has become the traditional month for publication of two special clusters in AWPL. In 2022, both clusters have been successful, with the first one dedicated to functionalized metasurfaces [3] and the second one to beam-steering technologies [4].

The 2023 clusters have been recently announced and their calls for papers are posted in [5]:

- 1) “Recent Advances in Conformal Metasurfaces,” with Drs. Jordan Budhu and Anthony Grbic as guest editors;
- 2) “Recent Advances in Applications Involving Mutual Coupling,” with Drs. Hoi-Shun Antony Lui, Christophe Craeye, and Trevor Bird as guest editors.

We are looking forward to receiving your submissions until the deadline of 31 March, 2023. As for all contributions in AWPL, the papers will be posted in “early access” as soon as the final files are received after acceptance.

EDITORIAL MATTERS

Integrity is at the core of academic publishing, and therefore, a spotless ethical behavior is expected from our authors and editorial board members. It is the responsibility of all AWPL authors to adhere to the IEEE publishing ethics, which can be found in [6]. I encourage all authors, and in particular our junior authors, to visit this very informative webpage.

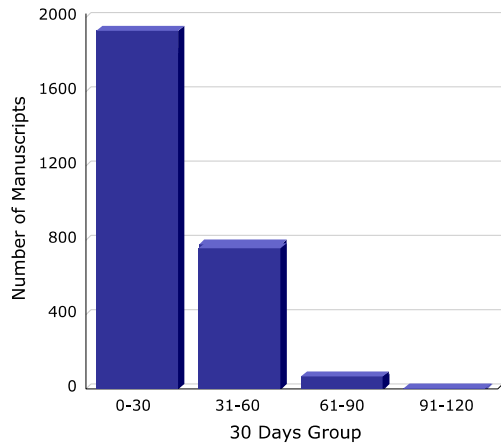


Fig. 2. Time from submission to decision in 2022 (1 January–15 December).

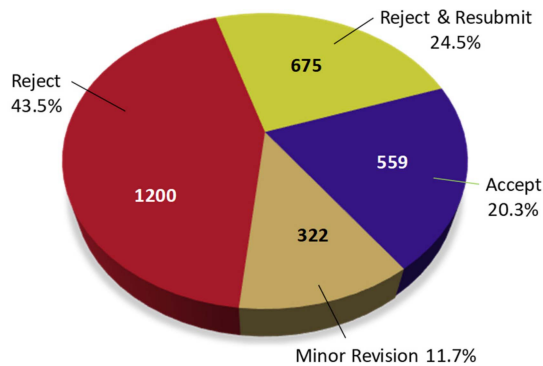


Fig. 3. Number of manuscripts by decisions in 2022 (1 January–15 December). The presented data include all decisions made on original manuscripts, resubmissions, and revisions.

The last few years have seen an increase in cases of duplicate submissions, or submissions of strongly related papers in different journals without proper disclosure. The editorial board of AWPL firmly discourages such behavior and applies corrective actions consequently when such cases are discovered (which may occur after publication). To avoid unpleasant experiences, the authors must disclose all their publications related to an AWPL submission.

- 1) Previous related conference papers with preliminary results are acceptable, but they must be cited with the extension clearly highlighted.
- 2) Related published journal articles by the authors must be cited appropriately.
- 3) Parallel submissions of related articles by the authors must be fully disclosed, with the article submitted in

parallel attached to the submission as supplementary material.

The general principle is that the editorial board must be given all information pertaining to the submission, so that the novelty of the contribution can be assessed in the context of the authors' research activities. Overall, ethical behavior benefits the authors' reputation and their long-term career development. In case of doubt, the authors are invited to contact the editor-in-chief of the journal to seek clarification.

CLOSING REMARKS

At the time of publication of this editorial, my second and last term as the editor-in-chief of AWPL will be about to come to an end. After six years of service to the journal and nearly 17 000 manuscript decisions, it is time to pass the baton to my successor: It is my great pleasure to introduce the incoming Editor-in-Chief of AWPL as Dr. Steven Gao, Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Honorary Professor at the University of Kent. I have full confidence that Prof. Gao will lead AWPL to new heights. Welcome, Steven!

It has been a privilege and honor to serve AWPL and the AP-S. While some decisions and procedures have been difficult, I will fondly remember the overwhelmingly positive interactions with authors, reviewers, journal staff, associate editors, fellow editors-in-chief, and AP-S officers.

I wish you a happy and fruitful new year 2023, and I am looking forward to meeting you in conferences in the future.

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Christophe Fumeaux (Fellow, IEEE) received the diploma and Ph.D. degrees in physics from the ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland, in 1992 and 1997, respectively.

From 1998 to 2000, he was a Postdoctoral Researcher with the School of Optics, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, USA. In 2000, he joined the Swiss Federal Office of Metrology, Bern, Switzerland, as a Scientific Staff Member. From 2001 to 2008, he was a Research Associate and Lecturer with the Laboratory for Electromagnetic Fields and Microwave Electronics, ETH Zurich. Since 2008, he has been with The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, SA, Australia, where he is currently a Professor with the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. His main research interests include applied electromagnetics, antenna engineering, and the application of RF design principles across the electromagnetic spectrum.

Prof. Fumeaux was the recipient of the ETH Medal for his doctoral dissertation, the 2018 Edward E. Altshuler Prize, the 2014 IEEE Sensors Journal and the 2004 ACES Journal Best Paper Awards, Best Conference Paper Awards at the 2012 Asia-Pacific International Symposium on

Electromagnetic Compatibility (APEMC 2012) and the 17th Colloque International sur la Compatibilité Electromagnétique (CEM 2014), and the University of Adelaide Stephen Cole the Elder Award for Excellence in Higher Degree by Research Supervisory Practice in 2018. More than ten of his students have received student awards with joint papers at IEEE conferences. From 2011 to 2015, he was a Future Fellow of the Australian Research Council. From 2010 to 2013, he was an Associate Editor for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES. From 2013 to 2016, he was a Senior Associate Editor and later the Associate Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION. Since 2017, he has been the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE ANTENNAS AND WIRELESS PROPAGATION LETTERS.