

# AWPL Status Update

IT IS the time of the year again for me to update the status of the IEEE ANTENNAS AND WIRELESS PROPAGATION LETTERS (AWPL). It is rather important for the editorial office of AWPL, as this is a good opportunity to communicate effectively with our readers about journal success over the past year and look forward to the beginning of a new year.

I took the position of Editor-in-Chief in January 2014, and it has been a wonderful experience working with the team: Claire Sideri has been extremely helpful and always ensures us to be organized and keep on top of everything; our strong board of over 30 associate editors (AEs) has been the main workforce to maintain the quality of journal publications and ensures that all letters published by AWPL are engaging and informative.

In 2014, the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (APS) AdCom adopted a term limit policy for the associate editors of all of our Society's publications such that the associate editors will serve no more than two consecutive 3-year terms, subject to annual reappointment. Several past AEs therefore retired and have moved on with their new roles in the community: Profs. Quirino Balzano, Danilo Erricolo, Hisamatsu Nakano, Gaetano Marrocco, Elena Semouchkina, Fernando Teixeira, and Erdem Topsakal have stepped down after many years of their helpful service. I would like to thank them on behalf of the community for their professionalism and excellence of volunteering service.

Due to a significant increase of letter submissions, this year, we have recruited a few new AEs. They are Profs. Benjamin Braaten, Debatosh Guha, Rob Maaskant, Loïc Markley, Jiming Song, and Hanyang Wang from various countries, and they have outstanding expertise, respectively, on numerical modeling, small antennas, and advanced electromagnetics.

As many readers of AWPL might know, the impact factor of this journal has risen to 1.948 (2013) from 1.37 (2011) and 1.66 (2012). There has been a steady increase of published letters with the number of pages: 1672 pages (2011), 1800 pages (2012), 1800 pages (2013), and 1900 pages (2014). AWPL is now the second "fastest" journal among IEEE publications: From submission date to online post date in IEEE Xplore, we have a median of about 32 days on average from submission to decision (38 days in 2013), despite an increase in submissions of over 36% in 2014. This means that an author may expect his or her letter to appear on IEEE Xplore, on average, in less than 2 months after submission for letters that are eventually accepted.

Fig. 1 shows the number of letters by recommendation. Overall, approximately 46% of letters submitted were accepted for publication. Fig. 2 shows the time from submission to decision in 2014. Fig. 3 demonstrates the number of submissions

Color versions of one or more of the figures in this letter are available online at <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org>.

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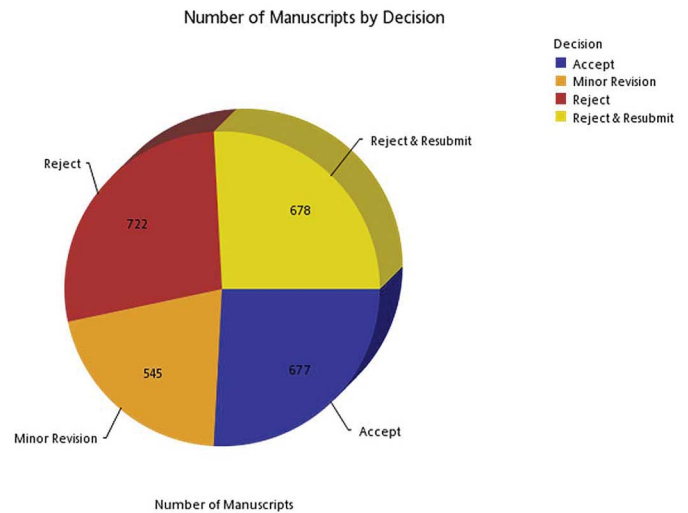


Fig. 1. Number of manuscripts by decision.

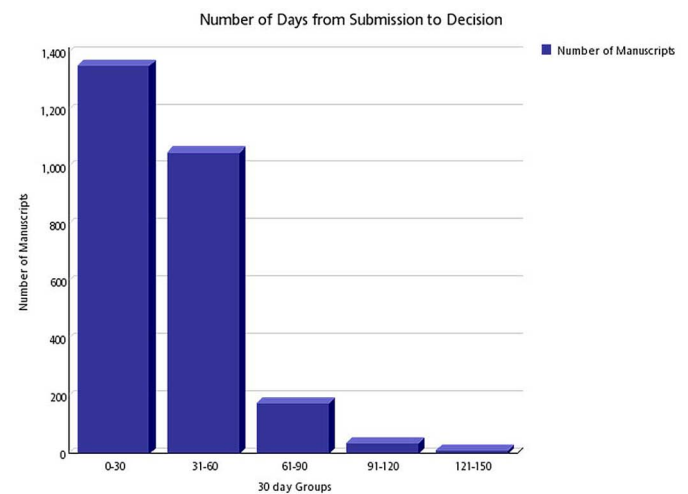


Fig. 2. Time from submission to decision in 2014.

and the number of days from submission to decision since 2003. One can see an exponential increase of letter submissions.

The overarching objective is to establish AWPL as a primary rapid-publishing journal for the community by extending its scope and the readership, and therefore further increasing its impact factor. We have aimed to publish more special clusters and focus on multiple-disciplinary research themes with high-quality contributions.

In 2014, the journal published a Special Cluster on Transformation Electromagnetics, co-edited by Prof. Douglas H. Werner (The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA) and Prof. Do-Hoon Kwon (University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, USA). This year will see the publication of two other clusters, namely, "Antennas for

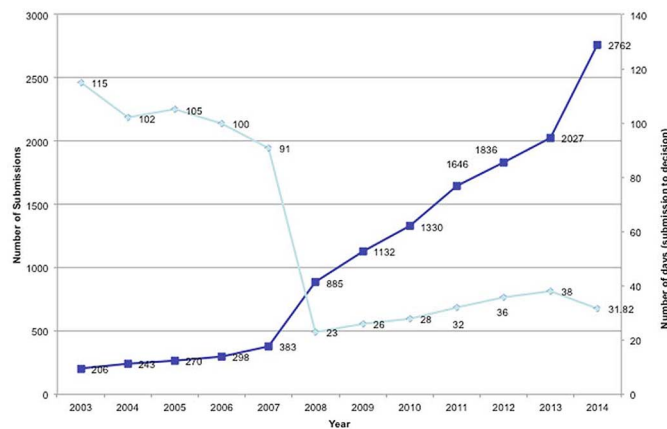


Fig. 3. Number of submissions and number of days from submission to decision since 2003.

Wireless Body Area Networks” and “Compressive Sensing as Applied to Electromagnetics,” respectively edited by Prof. Anja Skrivervik (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland) and Prof. Gaetano Marrocco (Università di Roma “Tor Vergata,” Rome, Italy); and, Prof. Andrea Massa (University of Trento, Trento, Italy) and Prof. Fernando L. Teixeira (The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA).

There have been some small changes about publishing letters in AWPL. IEEE now supports the publication of author names in their native language alongside the English versions of the names in the author list of an article. Authors must provide the native language name in Unicode characters in the files they submit for publication to be displayed in the byline of the article, in parentheses, after the English version of the name. The

guidelines for including native author names in the publication have been added to the Instructions and Forms section of the ScholarOne Manuscripts review sites.

In 2015, manuscripts must continue to be submitted through ScholarOne Manuscript (Manuscript Central) (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/awpl>). All manuscripts must be prepared according to the double-column IEEE format and must be at most four pages long. As highlighted in previous editorials, each manuscript submitted to AWPL should be an original contribution: Complete duplication of material that has already been published or submitted elsewhere may result in a publication ban. Submissions that are based on or make use of material that has been previously published must cite that material and must contain a brief explanation of what is new and different in the current submission that justifies publication.

The 2014 Piergiorgio L. E. Uslenghi Prize Paper Award was presented to Michael Selvanayagam and George V. Eleftheriades for the letter titled “Circuit Modeling of Huygens Surfaces,” published in the IEEE ANTENNA AND WIRELESS PROPAGATION LETTERS, vol. 12, pp. 1642–1645, 2013.

I look forward to a successful 2015 for the journal, and wish all our readers, authors, reviewers, and editors a prosperous, healthy, and delightful New Year.

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**Yang Hao** (M’00–SM’06–F’13) received the Ph.D. degree in computational electromagnetics from the Centre for Communications Research (CCR), University of Bristol, Bristol, U.K., in 1998.

He is currently a Professor of antennas and electromagnetics with the Antenna Engineering Group, Queen Mary, University of London, London, U.K. Prior to his appointment at Queen Mary, he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, U.K. He currently leads a £4.6M project on transformation electromagnetics and microwave metamaterials. He is also a management board member of Cambridge Graphene Center, Cambridge, U.K. Over the years, he developed several fully integrated antenna solutions based on novel artificial materials to reduce mutual RF interference, weight, cost, and system complexity for security, aerospace, and healthcare. He developed, with leading U.K. industries, novel and emergent gradient index materials to reduce mass, footprint, and profile of low-frequency and broadband antennas. He also co-developed the first stable active non-Foster metamaterial to enhance usability through small antenna size, high directivity,

and tunable operational frequency. He coined the term “body-centric wireless communications,” i.e., networking among wearable and implantable wireless sensors on the human body. He was the first to characterize and include the human body as a communication medium between on-body sensors using surface and creeping waves. He contributed to the industrial development of the first wireless sensors for healthcare monitoring. He is a strategic advisory board member for the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), where he is committed to championing RF/microwave engineering for reshaping the future of U.K. manufacturing and electronics. He has published over 140 journal papers, and he was a co-editor and coauthor of the books *Antennas and Radio Propagation for Body-Centric Wireless Communications* (Artech House, 2006, 2012) and *FDTD Modelling of Metamaterials: Theory and Applications* (Artech House, 2008), respectively. He is active in a number of areas, including computational electromagnetics, microwave metamaterials, graphene and nanomicrowaves, antennas and radio propagation for body-centric wireless networks, active antennas for millimeter/submillimeter applications, and photonic integrated antennas.

Prof. Hao was elected as a Fellow of the ERA Foundation in 2007, a Fellow of the IET in 2010, and a Fellow of the IEEE in 2013. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION LETTERS. He was an Associate Editor of the same journal and of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION during 2008 to 2013, and also a Co-Guest Editor for the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION in 2009. He is a member of the Board of the European School of Antenna Excellence, a member of EU VISTA COST Action and the Virtual Institute for Artificial Electromagnetic Materials and Metamaterials, Metamorphose VI AISBL. He was a Vice Chairman of the Executive Team of the IET Antennas and Propagation Professional Network. He has served as an invited and keynote speaker (ANTEM 2005, ISAP 2007, LAPC 2007, IWAT 2010, ICMTCE 2011, MobiHealth 2011, and ICE 2013), a conference General Chair (LAPC 2008, Metamaterials 2009), session chair, and short course organizer at many international conferences. He won the BAE Chairman's Silver Award in 2014 and is a current holder of the Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award.