

## Publications Advisory Board

**Committee Members:** P. Stapp (Publications Director). *Journal of Mammalogy*: Editor-in-Chief – E. Heske; Associate Editors – P. Barboza, H. Beck, L. Carraway, R. Constantine, N. Dochtermann, J. Esselstyn, E. Gese, J. Goheen, L. Hayes, A. Hohn, T. Jezkova, J. Light, K. Monteith, R. Moratelli, R. Ojeda, J. Ortega Reyes, C. R. Pavey, A. Piaggio, R. A. Powell, D. Rogers, L. Ruedas, J. Scheibe, B. Swanson, J. Thomas, M. Vieira, B. Zielinski, P. Zollner; Special Features Editor – J. Merritt; Book Review Editor – P. Meserve. *Mammalian Species*: Editor-in-Chief – M. Hamilton; Associate Editors – J. Harris, C. Kilpatrick, P. Owen, B. Rose, S. Solari. *Oxford University Press*: M. Beaman (Production, formerly R. Leon), C. Williams-Klamborowski (Editorial Assistance), L. Godwin (Marketing), F. Williams (Lead/Publisher).

### **Mission:**

The Publications Advisory Board oversees the Society's publications, including the *Journal of Mammalogy* and *Mammalian Species*. The Board sets editorial policy for the Society and nominates editors for approval by the Board of Directors. The Board typically is composed of current editors, who are involved in reviewing and accepting papers and the technical production of the publications. Key publishing partners are invited to serve as *ex officio* but non-voting members.

### **Information Items:**

**(1) General Information.** ASM is now in its third year of a 5-year publishing contract with Oxford University Press (OUP), after a 59-year association with Allen Press (1956-2015). This transition involved not only a complete change in our staffing partners, but also a change in our editorial platform, from AllenTrack to ScholarOne. OUP completed the transition to its new publishing platform (Oxford Academic) in January 2017, which resulted in a few problems, but these seem to be mostly resolved. If anyone has concerns with the availability or content of any journals, please contact me and I will work with OUP to resolve them as quickly as possible. I am indebted to Doug Kelt and Fiona Williams for their patience and advice as I assumed the Publications Director position, and to Ed Heske and Meredith Hamilton for leading their respective editorial teams through another successful year.

One item for discussion by the Board is how to pay for printing of the Special Issue associated with the ASM Centennial celebration. According to Alicia Linzey, the timeline for the issue calls for submission of completed manuscripts in October 2018. The current plan is to pay for any printing costs associated with a seventh, presumably larger issue, in 2019 (with a budget submitted next year), rather than split costs across years.

A second item for discussion is our publishing contract for *JM* and *MS*. Our 5-year contract with OUP ends in December 2019. If we want to consider bids from other publishers for a contract from 2020 onward, we should have presentations from publishers at the 2018 Annual Meeting. I have requested that the Board establish a contingency fund, tentatively for \$20,000, to pay a management consultant in the event that we want to solicit bids. Fiona indicated that she could prepare a new draft contract from OUP by mid-November for our consideration, which will help the Board decide how to move forward.

**(2) Editorial Staff.** *JM* and *MS* are the most visible products of the ASM. The success of these is a direct reflection of the efforts of the editors for both journals, who comprise the bulk of the PAB. We excel through the dedication and efforts of these members, and they continue to display passion for mammalogy and for helping authors present their work as efficiently and effectively as possible. Editing is a rewarding job but not without its challenges; as all authors know, however, editors are seminal to the success of each and every one of us! I encourage all Society members to thank members of the PAB, listed on the first page of this report, in person.

Last summer, the Board approved the nomination of Ed Heske to replace Joe Merritt as Editor-in-Chief for *JM*. In addition to his long and distinguished years of service to ASM, Ed's past stint as Journal Editor makes him an ideal fit for this position. Ed and Joe worked together on the final issues of Volume 97 in 2016 and Ed assumed full responsibility for *JM* with Volume 98. The fruits of his energy and devotion to *JM* are already evident in this year's first issues.

President Sikes continued a practice of electronic voting to allow for more rapid decision-making on key societal issues. In August 2016, the Board approved the nominations of 4 new Associate Editors for *JM* [Rochelle Constantine (University of Auckland), Ned Dochtermann (North Dakota State University), Aleta Hohn (NMFS Beaufort, and Luis Ruedas (Portland State University)], and 1 new Associate Editor for *MS* (Sergio Solari, Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia). New Associate Editors were put to work starting 1 September 2016. We were fortunate this year to be able to retain all of our Associate Editors from the past year, with the exception of Joe Merritt, who retired after a year as Editor for Special Features for *JM*. Roger Powell, with more than 11 years of outstanding service as Associate Editor for *JM*, generously agreed to replace him. In April 2017, I submitted to President Sikes a request to approve by electronic vote Roger's move to the Special Features Editor role, as well as the nominations of 2 new Associate Editors (Jack Hopkins, Unity College; Bob Schooley, University of Illinois) for *JM*. If approved, terms for these Associate Editors will commence at the end of the Annual Meeting. Lastly, I am pleased that Barbara Blake has agreed to continue to coordinate the Journal's Buddy System and the proofreading of foreign language abstracts. Given our increasing international footprint, these are indispensable services provided by ASM to authors. Barbara will be listed with the other editors in *JM* as an Editorial Assistant.

**(3) Editorial Policies and Procedures.** Shortly after assuming the Editor-in-Chief position for *JM*, Ed updated the online *Instructions to Authors*, including advice on preparing figures for publication.

I want to thank the members of the Nomenclature Committee, especially Ryan Norris, Al Gardner, and Associate Editors Ricardo Moratelli (*JM*) and Sergio Solari (*MS*), for their assistance with the numerous taxonomy issues that arise as part of our editorial process. Ryan re-affirmed the commitment on the part of the Committee to help with editing of synonymys for *MS* accounts, which I hope will help reduce the workload on Meredith and improve handling times.

Via email discussion the PAB agreed that current reviewers should receive all of the reviews and the decision letter associated with the version of the manuscript they reviewed. In consultation

with our OUP partners, we set a policy that reviews are confidential and cannot be published or made public with the permission of the authors and Editor-in-Chief. To minimize the risk of inadvertently releasing a confidential review, and to avoid increasing the workload of the editorial staff, we have elected not to partner with or share information with Publons or other review aggregating companies, which have increased in popularity recently.

**(4) Distribution, Availability, and Promotion of Publications.** I removed the “Brochures” section of the Publications page of the ASM website because many of these brochures were outdated. Most contain valuable information for both members and non-members alike, and I urge Committee Chairs to consider updating these documents and posting them on their respective Committee Pages. Also on the ASM website, I updated links to the new Oxford Academic Platform. We are considering changes to allow a single log-in to ASM publications from the ASM website. I thank Sean Maher, Chair of the Informatics Committee and webmaster, for all of his help this year with making improvements to the website.

The editors are working with Lauren Godwin to develop promotional materials for ASM Journals that can be disseminated at IMC12 in Perth in July. Meredith and Lauren created new sets of region-specific Mammal Trading Cards based on *MS* accounts for distribution in both Moscow and Perth. We are always considering ways to promote and publicize the journals and hope to take greater advantage of our partnership with OUP in this regard.

I will attend IMC12 in July to promote ASM journals as well as membership and am presenting a poster. My aim is to recruit more international authors, reviewers, and possibly, Associate Editors. Neither Ed nor Meredith are attending, but OUP will have a table to promote the journals and other OUP products.

One goal for *JM* is to increase submissions of high-quality manuscripts that will increase the visibility and impact of the journal. Our contract permits the Editor-in-Chief to designate up to 2 articles per issue as Editor’s Choice articles, which are publically available free-of-charge. Ed has begun authoring short (1 page) commentaries to highlight these articles, which includes a color image related to the article. These commentaries raise the visibility of the articles, which might encourage submissions, and also make the issue more attractive. In the 2018 budget I am seeking funds to allow us to pay for printing of 1 color figure per issue.

Lastly, as was the case last year, I am requesting funds to publish 30 print copies of the online-only *Mammalian Species*, Volume 48, Accounts 930-941; 28 of these will be sent to archival libraries, whereas 2 will be available for purchase. The estimated cost of printing is \$375, which is the same as in last year’s budget. The actual cost in 2016 (\$428) exceeded the budgeted amount because OUP underestimated the cost of expedited shipping.

**(5) Publication Statistics.** Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2016 and 23 March 2017.

**Composition of recent issues of *JM*:**

Issue	Feature Articles	Special Feature / Invited Articles / Obituaries	Book Reviews	Pages
97.3	29	2	2	351
97.4	22	0	4	256
97.5	23	0	3	236
97.6	26	1	2	304
98.1	23	6	2	324
98.2	24	1	0	280
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,751</b>

The page budget for *JM* is 333 pages per issue (~2,000 pages per year). We published 1,809 pages in 2016, 189 pages below the page budget, and to date, 604 pages in 2017, which was 62 pages fewer than budgeted.

***JM* Handling and Production times (Feature articles in Issues 97.3-98.2; n = 147):**

Issue	Avg Submission to Acceptance	Acceptance to Print (online/ paper)*	Total Time (online/ paper)*
97.3	195 days (6.5 mo)	38/ 156 days (1.3/ 5.2 mo)	233/ 351 days (7.8/ 11.7 mo)
97.4	175 days (5.8 mo)	35/ 142 days (1.2/ 4.7 mo)	210/ 317 days (7.0/ 10.6 mo)
97.5	201 days (6.7 mo)	27/ 139 days (0.9/ 4.6 mo)	228/ 340 days (7.6/ 11.3 mo)
97.6	218 days (7.3 mo)	55/ 162 days (1.8/ 5.4 mo)	273/ 380 days (9.1/ 12.7 mo)
98.1	245 days (8.2 mo)	69/ 164 days (2.3/ 5.5 mo)	314/ 409 days (10.5/ 13.6 mo)
98.2	249 days (8.3 mo)	55/ 117 days (1.8/ 3.9 mo)	304/ 366 days (10.1/ 12.2 mo)

\* - time to publishing online/ print in paper

The increase in handling times for the first two issues of Volume 98 reflected the transition in Editors-in-Chief from Joe to Ed, the moving of editorial offices from Illinois to New Mexico, the transition to the new Oxford Academic platform, and a dispute between a Special Features author and his collaborators that slowed publication of the entire issue.

**Geographic distribution of published Feature and Special Feature articles in issues 97.3 through 98.2; n = 157 manuscripts); *JM* authors came from 41 countries on all continents except Antarctica:**

Location	First Author	All Authors
U.S.	74 (47.1%)	289 (41.8%)

<b>Canada</b>	9 (5.7%)	32 (4.6%)
<b>Latin America</b>	29 (18.5%)	132 (19.1%)
<b>Europe</b>	22 (14.0%)	114 (16.5%)
<b>Wallacea</b>	9 (5.7%)	40 (5.8%)
<b>Asia</b>	11 (7.0%)	64 (9.2%)
<b>Africa</b>	3 (1.9)	21 (3.0%)

Included countries: Latin America (Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay); Europe (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK); Wallacea (Australia, Papua New Guinea); Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Russia, Taiwan); Africa (Botswana, Madagascar, South Africa, Tanzania).

**Manuscripts (*JM* Feature Articles only) submitted, accepted, and rejected between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, including comparable data for 3 preceding years:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b>Number of manuscripts submitted</b>	308	351	345	415
<b>Number of manuscripts accepted/provisionally accepted (a)</b>	63	89	138	129
<b>Number of manuscripts rejected (r)</b>	165	164	148	177
<b>Rejection rate (a/a+r)</b>	72%	65%	52%	58%
<b>Total Final Decisions (a + r)</b>	228	253	286	306

Associate Editors for *JM* were assigned, on average, 10.5 original manuscripts (range: 6-16) during the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. Including revisions, Associate Editors handled an average of 19.4 manuscripts (range: 11-38) during this period. The Editor-in-Chief rejected 37 manuscripts without review and accepted 1 without review, and 1 manuscript was withdrawn.

Of the 61 *JM* Feature manuscripts accepted, the average number of days from original submission to acceptance was 146 days (range: 1-337 days). Of those rejected, the number of days from submission to rejection was 39 days (range: 0-271 days), including those rejected without review by the Editor-in-Chief (average 2 days).

**Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, including comparable data for 3 preceding years:**

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b>Total number of accounts published</b>	12	12	13	8
<b>Accounts in proof</b>	4	3	2	6

<b>Accounts with Editor</b>	25 <sup>a</sup>	20	20	21
<b>Total number of accounts with Associate Editors</b>	50 <sup>b</sup>	51	54	56
<b>Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to Associate Editors</b>	32	22	30	23
<b>Number of new species accounts assigned to authors</b>	21	18	25	18
<b>Total number of accounts in preparation</b>	237 <sup>c</sup>	289	275	266

<sup>a</sup> Three inactive, 5 moving to production in May

<sup>b</sup> 20 inactive

<sup>c</sup> 146 overdue

Over the past year Meredith and I have discussed ways to improve the visibility of *MS* and to improve our editorial processes, including reducing the handling time of manuscripts. I would also like to recruit additional authors and, possibly, Associate Editors, while at IMC12. We have excellent account coverage for North American species, but few or no accounts for some important taxa found elsewhere (accounts prepared for 78% of NA species; NA species represent 35% of all accounts but are <10% of described mammals). The PAB will discuss changes to and ideas for *MS* during the second scheduled PAB meeting at the Annual Meeting in Moscow; anyone interested in *MS* is encouraged to attend.

#### **Action Items:**

- (1) Request a decrease in the number of Associate Editors for *JM* from 30+2 to 28+2 and an increase in the number of Associate Editors for *MS* from 5 to 7, resulting in no net change in requested funds for honoraria for 2018. This flexibility will permit me to recruit up to 2 new Associate Editors for *MS* at IMC12.
- (2) Request a decrease in the charge to authors for printing in color in the *JM* from \$1,000 to \$750 per figure, in an effort to encourage more authors to print in color and to increase the attractiveness of *JM*.
- (3) Request an increase in editorial assistance of \$4,500 to pay for color printing of 1 figure per issue (\$750) in *JM* as part of the Editor's Choice commentaries, in an effort to raise the profile of these articles and make them and *JM* more attractive to authors and readers. Savings on honoraria and editorial assistance in the 2017 budget will be used to pay for printing of these images in *JM* Volume 98 (2017).
- (4) Establish a contingency fund of \$20,000 to hire a management consultant to obtain bids on a new publishing contract. Our 5-year contract with OUP will expire in December 2019.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Paul Stapp  
Director of Publications  
([pstapp@fullerton.edu](mailto:pstapp@fullerton.edu))