
Volume 57 of the *Annals of Occupational Hygiene*, published in nine issues in 2013, continues our history of strong performance and contributions to the science of ‘the causation and control of work-related ill-health’.

**SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION**
In 2013, we reached our peak level of submissions, a total of 263, including 229 original research articles. Among the 222 papers for which final decisions were made in 2013, 72 were accepted, giving us a somewhat increased rejection rate of 68%. This relatively high rejection rate helps assure the highest quality papers appear in the journal and is thus good for readers and the journal, assuming we have a sufficient number of such high-quality papers submitted. As of the end of the year, a sufficient number of high-quality papers have been received to justify our current policies, without any expansion of the number of papers we publish.

In 2013, we published 94 research papers and reviews and an additional 4 commentaries. A content analysis of our research and review papers shows that we are very strong in exposure assessment (38%), exposure controls (14%), plus personal protective equipment (11%), and the basic sciences underlying occupational hygiene (18%). Aerosols make up 30% of the agents addressed, with 23% addressing chemicals, 13% physical agents, and 11% bioaerosols.

**PAPER PROCESSING**
The Chief Editor and team of 13 Assistant Editors coordinated the collection of 426 reviews from 277 reviewers. Our time for papers in review has continued to make progress throughout the year, and we have begun tracking this using a 6-month running average for papers with final decisions during that period. By year end, our mean (median) time to a first decision was 30 (29) days, while the time to reach a final decision (after revision and re-review) was 76 (41) days.

**ACCESS**
In addition to the 1750 members of BOHS receiving, nearly 3000 institutions were able to access the journal either via a direct institutional subscription or through academic consortia agreements. In 2013, 1215 not-for-profit institutions in 35 developing countries obtained free online access. The number of downloads of full texts of papers was stable, with ~26,000 pdf downloads or html views per month, almost 700 per calendar day.

**SOURCES**
Among the published research, review, and commentary papers, the largest number (31) were from North America, Scandinavia (18), the UK (9), and the other EU countries (25). A small number were also published from authors in East Asia (5), Australia (4), and elsewhere (2). It remains a challenge to identify papers derived from authors in the developing economies that are suitable for publication in the *Annals*.

The leading sources of submissions, by address of contact author, were USA (55 papers), France (18), China (17), UK (17), Finland (12), The Netherlands (10), and Sweden (10). German submissions were substantially down from 2012 while a marked increase was seen from both China and Finland. The regional distributions were Europe (excluding Scandinavia): 35%, North America: 26%, East Asia and Australasia: 15%, Scandinavia: 14%, and the rest of the world: 10%. At 25%, the fraction...
of papers submitted from outside Europe and North America has increased slightly since 2012.

**JOURNAL IMPACT**

Our journal impact factor for 2012 (announced in the middle of 2013) was 2.16, slightly up from the 2011 level of 1.95. Our JIF ranking among other journals classified as ‘Public, Environmental and Occupational Health’ has also shown steady improvement, now at 49th among 161 journals.

We look forward to another strong year of performance in 2014.

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