


Report of the Editors—2017

Co-Editors: Michael J. Daniels (Retired in 2017)
Debashis Ghosh (1 January 2018–31 December 2020)

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Geert Molenberghs (1 January 2018–31 December 2020)

Biometrics is a journal of the International Biometric Society (IBS). The journal is a top scholarly publication reporting work promoting the use of statistical and mathematical theory and methods in the biosciences. *Biometrics* authors are among the most respected authorities in the statistics profession. Information about the journal, including detailed instructions for authors; new developments; and review-time statistics (updated monthly) are available at the journal website, <http://www.biometrics.tibs.org/>. The newsletter of the IBS, the *Biometric Bulletin*, features a column in each issue reporting on news related to *Biometrics*. The journal is published by Wiley; online content is accessible at <http://wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/biom>.

Editorial Board

Co-Editor Mike Daniels completed his 3-year term as Co-Editor on 31 December 2017. We thank Mike for outstanding and dedicated service to the journal. We welcome Mike's successor, Debashis Ghosh of the University of Colorado Denver, whose 3-year term began on 1 January 2018.

There are currently 78 Associate Editors on the *Biometrics* Editorial Board, with expertise traversing a broad range of methodological and application areas. In 2017, 17 Associate Editors retired or resigned, and 8 new Associate Editors joined the Board. We thank all of our current and former Associate Editors for their excellent service. We also thank the numerous referees who have volunteered their time and expertise to our peer review process. The names of all referees serving during 2017 are listed in the December 2017 issue.

Our outstanding Editorial Manager, Ms. Ann Hanhart, has served *Biometrics* since the late 1990s with unparalleled skill, organization, and dedication. We are extremely grateful for Ms. Hanhart's invaluable contributions to the journal, without which *Biometrics* would not be the successful publication it is today. We also recognize Ms. Fran Smith, Ms. Hanhart's Editorial Assistant, who works with Ms. Hanhart on day-to-day journal processes.

The position of Liaison Editor is an internal, rotating position held by one of the Co-Editors, carrying responsibilities for handling day-to-day manuscript processing issues and for taking the lead on scientific initiatives. Co-Editor Stijn

Vansteelandt was Liaison Editor in 2017 and is succeeded by Co-Editor Malka Gorfine in this role.

Submission and Acceptance Statistics

In 2017, 603 new manuscripts were submitted to the Biometric Methodology and Biometric Practice sections, only a slight decrease from the 617 received in 2016. Of the 603 submissions in 2017, 446 were to Biometric Methodology (74.0%), compared to 453 (73.4%) in 2016, 395 (66.8%) in 2015, and 396 (66.7%) in 2014. Thus, in the past two years, Methodology submissions represented a greater proportion of total submissions relative to the roughly two-thirds in the previous two years. This represents a decrease in the proportion of submissions to Biometric Practice.

The journal also received four new submissions of Reader Reaction articles and one Letter to the Editors.

The 603 new manuscript submissions came from 37 countries/districts. The greatest proportion of submissions was from the USA (58.5%); followed by the United Kingdom (5.1%), Canada (4.6%), P. R. China (4.3%), India (2.8%), France (2.5%), Taiwan (2.5%), Germany (2.2%), and Australia (2.0%). Each of the remaining countries/districts contributed less than 2.0% of the total new submissions. Table 1 shows the distribution of 2017 new manuscript submissions by geographic region.

Table 2 shows the first review status and the current review status (as of January 1, 2018, the date on which this report was prepared) of 2016 and 2017 new manuscript

Table 1
Distribution of 2017 New Manuscript Submissions (n = 603) by geographical region

Region	Frequency	Percent
Africa	4	0.66
Asia	94	15.59
Europe	106	17.58
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	0.33
North America	381	63.18
Oceania	16	2.65

Table 2
Review status of new submissions in 2016 and 2017

Year	Status	First review		Current*	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
2016 (<i>n</i> = 617)	Rejected w/o external reviews	223	36.1	223	36.1
	Rejected w/ external reviews	233	37.8	244	39.6
	Revision allowed at own risk	86	14.0	11	1.8
	Revision invited	75	12.2	8	1.3
	Accepted	0	0.0	127	20.0
	First submission under review	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Revision under review	–	–	4	0.7
2017 (<i>n</i> = 603)	Rejected w/o external reviews	168	27.9	168	27.9
	Rejected w/ external reviews	243	40.3	243	40.3
	Revision allowed at own risk	39	6.5	17	2.8
	Revision invited	70	11.6	43	7.1
	Accepted	0	0.0	22	3.7
	First submission under review	83	13.8	83	13.8
	Revision under review	–	–	27	4.5

*As of January 1, 2018, the date on which this report was prepared.

submissions, respectively. In 2017, the Co-Editors rejected about 28% of new manuscripts without external review. The overall acceptance rate for 2016 was about 21%. Of the four Reader Reaction papers submitted in 2017, one was accepted, two were rejected and one is still under review. The one Letter to the Editors received in 2017 is still under review.

In 2017, *Biometrics* published 92 papers in the Biometric Methodology Section and 41 Biometric Practice papers. One of the Methodology papers is a Discussion paper. There was also one special Editorial in the September issue. Of the 133 articles published in the Methodology or Practice Sections, 69.2% were in Biometric Methodology, compared to 60.4% in 2016 and 62.6% in 2015.

Review Times

In 2017, *Biometrics* continued its tradition of providing timely and high-quality reviews. Our review times are among the swiftest in the discipline, and we are indebted to our Associate Editors and referees for their dedication to constructive and prompt reviews. Table 3 shows major percentiles of review times for first submissions and for first revisions for

2016 and 2017, where review time is defined as the time period between the date when a manuscript was received by the journal and the date when a letter and reports were sent to the author(s). Results are presented for all submissions and for manuscripts that were sent out for external review by the Co-Editor, where manuscripts of the latter type exclude those rejected or accepted by the Co-Editors without being sent to an Associate Editor. Each line of the table is derived from Kaplan–Meier estimates of survival curves for time to review, treating manuscripts for which reviews are pending as noninformatively censored.

From the table, the median review time in 2017 for all first submissions was 1.7 months, an increase from 1.2 in 2016; and the 75th and 95th percentiles were 2.5 and 4.0 months, respectively, similar to those in 2016. The median time to first review for all revisions in 2017 was 1.6 months, less than that in 2016; and the 75th and 95th percentiles were 2.3 and 3.5 months, about the same as in the previous year. No paper experienced a review time of any kind of more than 6.0 months in 2017. Kaplan–Meier survival curves based on the 2017 data are presented in Figure 1 and show the comparison with the 2016 figures.

Table 3
Summary statistics for manuscript review times in 2016 and 2017

Year	Submission type	MS type	<i>n</i>	Percentiles of review time in months					
				Min	25th	50th	75th	95th	Max
2016	First submission	All	617	0.0	0.2	1.2	2.4	3.7	5.5
		Reviewed externally	394	0.0	1.4	2.2	2.7	3.9	5.5
	First revision	All	146	0.0	1.4	1.9	2.4	3.3	5.2
		Reviewed externally	117	0.0	1.5	1.9	2.5	3.4	5.2
2017	First submission	All	603	0.0	0.2	1.7	2.5	4.0	6.0
		Reviewed externally	435	0.0	1.5	2.2	2.8	4.2	6.0
	First revision	All	144	0.0	1.3	1.6	2.3	3.5	5.2
		Reviewed externally	118	0.0	1.4	1.8	2.3	3.7	5.2

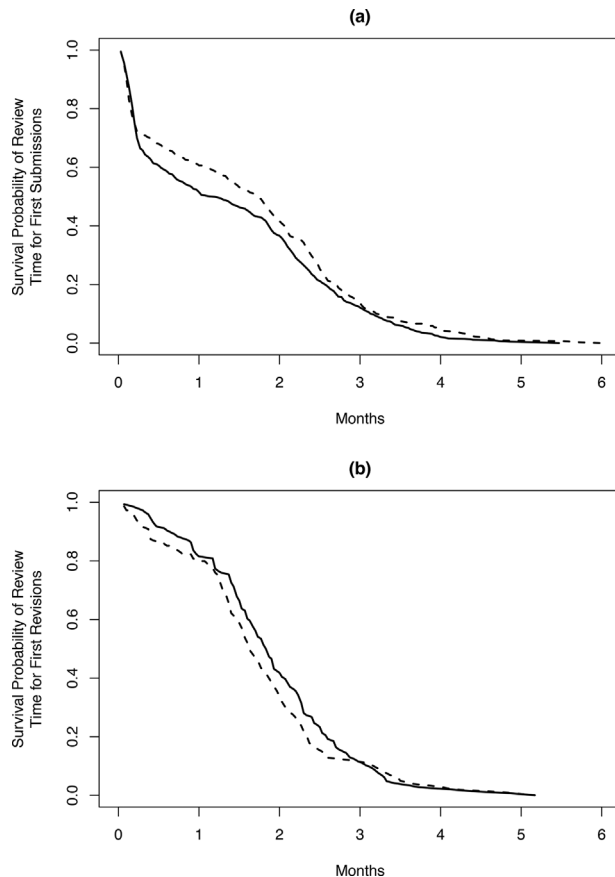


Figure 1. Kaplan–Meier survival curve estimates of the review times in months for (a) first submissions and (b) first revisions: 2016—solid line; 2017—dashed line.

Backlog

Backlog is defined as the time between acceptance and appearance of an article in the *print* version of the journal. The *Biometrics* backlog was about six to nine months in most of

2014–2015 but began increasing at the end of 2015, and was nine to 12 months in 2016. In 2017, this trend continued: Papers accepted in January, February, and March of 2017 were published in the December 2017 issue; papers accepted in April 2017 or later appear in the current issue (March 2018; accepted in April–June) or will appear later in 2018. The number of pages in 2017 was increased by 32 over 2016, to 1408, and remains the same in 2018.

The Early View feature provided by our publisher ensures that accepted papers are published electronically in their final, typeset form within eight weeks of being sent to the publisher (provided authors return proofs within 48 hours) at the *Biometrics* website at Wiley Online Library (<http://wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/biom>) and are assigned a digital object identifier (DOI) so that they can be cited formally. Information on how to cite Early View articles using the DOI number can be found at the journal website (<http://www.biometrics.tibs.org/>) under the **Information for Authors** link.

New Executive Editor

Marie Davidian’s final 3-year term as Executive Editor ended 31 December 2017. She served as inaugural Executive Editor for four consecutive terms, starting 1 January 2006. Marie is succeeded by Geert Molenberghs, whose 3-year term (1 January 2018–31 December 2020) is renewable up to three times. Geert is a former *Biometrics* Co-Editor and former IBS president; he is also former Co-Editor of *Applied Statistics* and *Biostatistics*. Geert brings to the position a wealth of editorial experience and knowledge of the IBS and biometry more generally.

Biometrics Sessions at Leading Statistical Conferences

A *Biometrics* Showcase Session will be held at the IBC in Barcelona, Spain, 8–13 July 2018. As is convention, the session will feature the winners of the Best Paper Published in *Biometrics* by an IBS Member Awards for 2016 and 2017. The winners of these awards will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony during the meeting.