

# *Epilepsia Open*

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Aristea Galanopoulou



Dong Zhou

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## **Aims**

To publish through an open access forum high quality articles on all aspects of epilepsy research and clinical practice, including reviews, original research, opinions and commentaries, reports from regional and topic-specific ILAE commissions and task forces, brief communications and case reports. We aim to adhere to high quality standards of reporting and publishing, as well as minimize publication bias, through the publication of not only studies with novel or positive findings but also negative, failure to confirm, or preliminary reports.

## **Mission**

The stated mission of *Epilepsia Open* is “to make original epilepsy research on all aspects of epilepsy widely available through open access publication. More specifically, *Epilepsia Open* will fill a need in comprehensive epilepsy research by also including early, preliminary studies that may provide new directions for clinical and laboratory research as well as well performed negative and failure to confirm studies.”

## **Activities during 2020**

The Editors in Chief and Editorial Board, in collaboration with Wiley and the ILAE leadership where needed, have been convening via teleconferences to discuss the progress, strategies and action items and advance the quality and visibility of the journal. Face-to-face meetings have not been held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

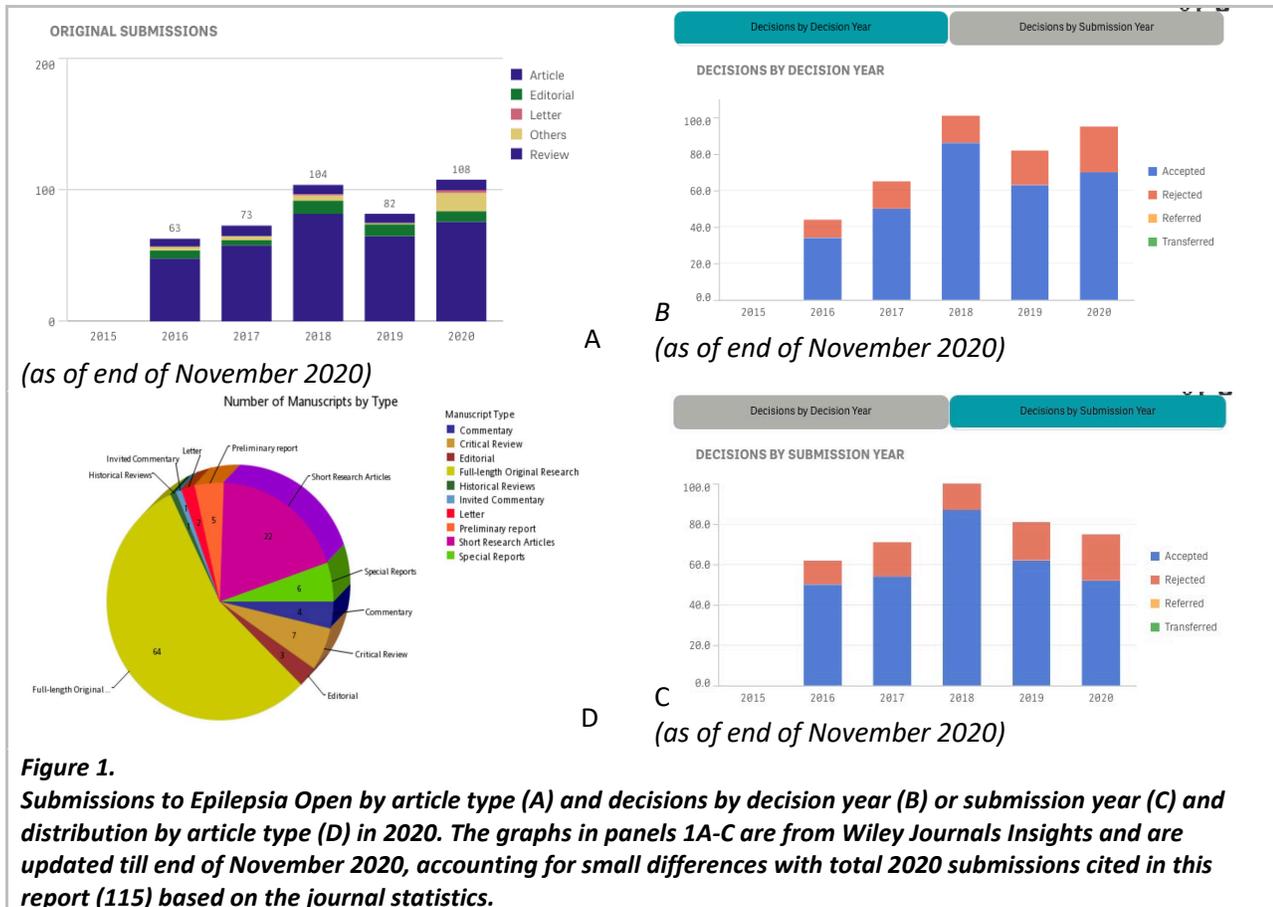
## **Accomplishments during 2020**

### **Marketing and increasing awareness of the journal:**

Wiley continued an extensive marketing strategy to regularly highlight the content of the journal’s issues and target both basic and clinical scientists and epilepsy professionals through regular newsletters. Selected articles from the journal’s issues are also highlighted in the ILAE website and in ILAE newsletters.

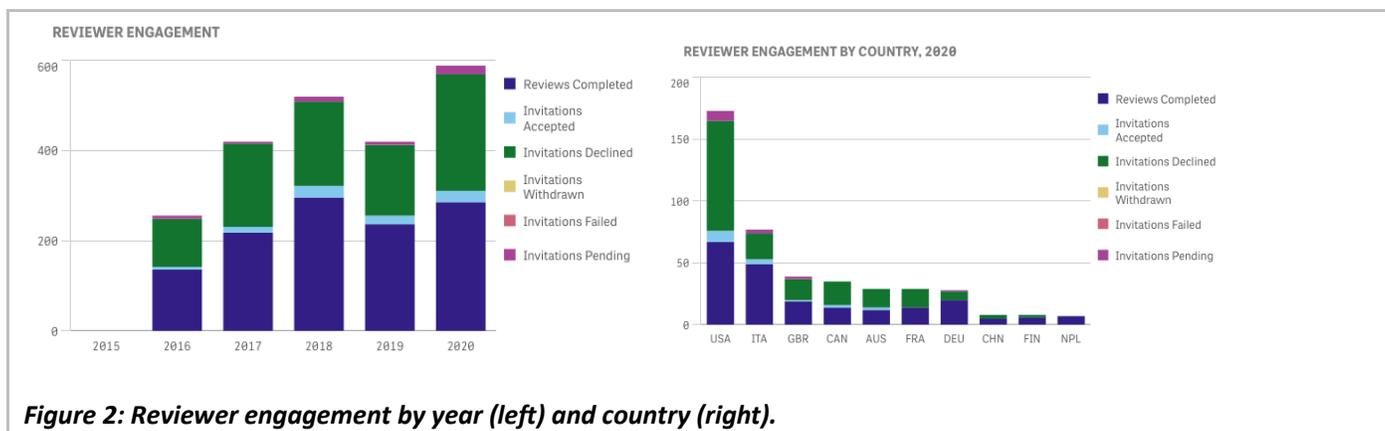
## Submissions:

In 2020, *Epilepsia Open* received 115 original articles (44% increase compared to 2019), 71.3% of which are original research and 7.8% reviews (**Figure 1**). The majority are direct submissions to *Epilepsia Open*. *Special reports, including ILAE reports, comprise 5.2% of submissions.*



## Peer review, publications:

*Epilepsia Open* has engaged peer reviewers from a wide range of countries worldwide and particularly from the United States, Italy, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, China, Finland, Netherlands. The accept rate for new submissions in 2020 was 69%, compared to 77% for 2019 submissions, being slightly higher for transferred papers (80%) than direct submissions (67%). Time spent in review (including multiple rounds of review) are 60 days (increased from ~50 in 2019) reflecting partially the COVID-19 pandemic disruptions and partially challenges in engaging peer reviewers (**Figure 2**). The average reviewer turnaround time is 11.1 days for original submissions and 5.2 days for revisions, yet there are significant delays in review time due to increasing rate of reviewers declining invites (**Figure 2**). To address this gap, there have been ongoing efforts by *Epilepsia Open* editorial board to increase engagement of well qualified younger and mid-career reviewers in our reviewer pool. Editorial board members Drs Pasquale Striano and Manisha Patel have been tasked to assemble a list and strategy for engaging young reviewers.



*Epilepsia Open* continues to publish four issues a year with 12-21 articles per issue. Topics range across a wide spectrum of research and health care with most common topics being treatments, genetic, epigenetic or molecular, electrophysiology, animal models, epidemiology, and biomarkers, comorbidities, and public health issues.

#### Geographic distribution of authors submitting and publishing in *Epilepsia Open*:

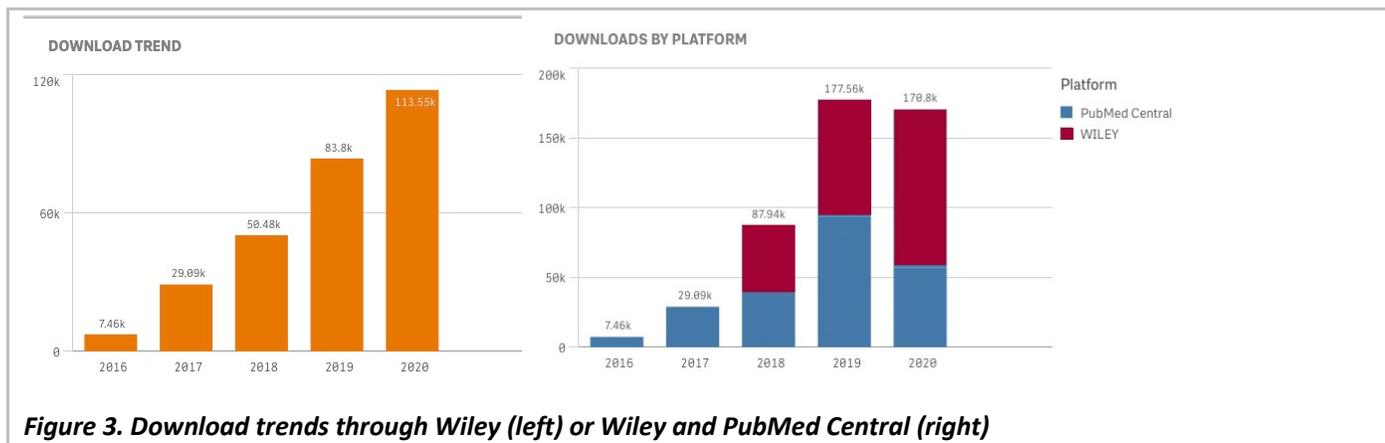
In 2020, a third of submissions stem from the United States (31.5%); other countries with 4-8 submissions/year include Japan (7.5%), India (6.5%), UK and Northern Ireland (5.5%), Germany (4.6%), Canada and Australia (3.7%). Top publishing countries (accepted articles) include United States (42.5%), UK and Northern Ireland (7.5% each), Australia and Canada (5% each).

#### Production:

The new journal format was adopted in 2019 which prompted a decline in the production time. However, possibly due to unanticipated disruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic, the median days from submission to online publication has increased to 146 days in 2020. Time from acceptance to first appearance of accepted article online was 4.2 days and time from acceptance to early view article online is 20.2 days.

#### Downloads:

The journal has been steadily increasing its visibility and readership. Downloads of *Epilepsia Open* articles for 2020 have increased to more than 113,551 through the Wiley site (as of end of November 2020) from 83,800 in 2019, i.e. increased by 35.5% (**Figure 3**). Top countries to download articles are the United States (30,361), China (15,594), United Kingdom (6,805) and India (5,157).



**Figure 3. Download trends through Wiley (left) or Wiley and PubMed Central (right)**

### Epilepsia Open Prizes:

Two *Epilepsia Open* prizes were awarded in 2020 to the best clinical and basic science original articles published in the journal in 2018 (**Figure 4**). The best clinical science prize was awarded to Dr Ana Coito (Switzerland) for her article on "[Interictal epileptogenic zone localization in patients with focal epilepsy using electric source imaging and directed functional connectivity from low-density EEG](#)". Ana Coito, Silke Biethahn, Janina Tepperberg, Margherita Carboni, Ulrich Roelcke, Margitta Seeck, Pieter van Mierlo, Markus Gschwind, Serge Vulliemoz. Vol 4 issue 2. EPI4-0080-2018.R1

The Prize for the best basic science article was awarded to Jesse A. Pfammatter (USA) for his article on "[An automated, machine learning-based detection algorithm for spike-wave discharges \(SWDs\) in a mouse model of absence epilepsy](#)". Jesse A. Pfammatter, Rama K. Maganti, Mathew V. Jones. Volume 4, issue 1. EPI4-0070-2018.R3

The winners presented their research and received their prizes during an ILAE Journals Virtual Prize Symposium, on June 17, 2020.

**Figure 4. Epilepsia Open Prize winners for best Clinical (Ana Coito) and Basic (Jesse A. Pfammatter) Science published in the journal in 2020.**

#### Clinical Science



**Ana Coito**  
Switzerland

#### Basic Science

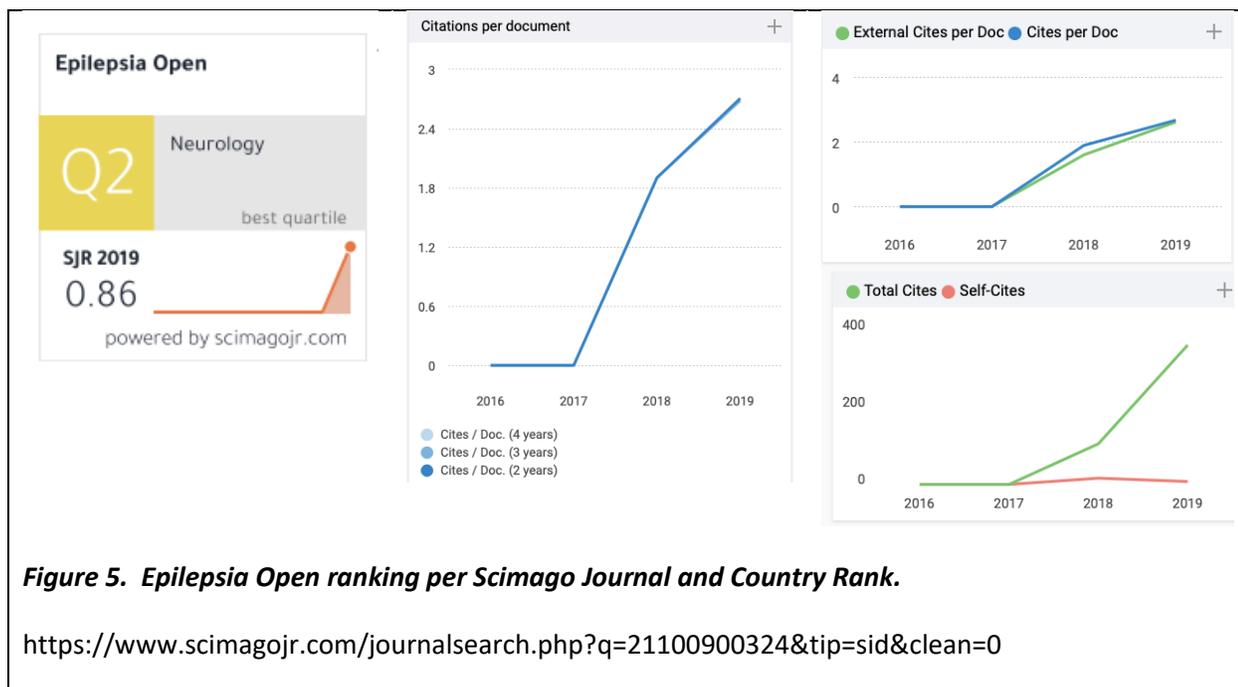


**Jesse A Pfammatter**  
United States

## Citations

*Epilepsia Open* articles received a total of 1,200 citations just from the Web of Science indexed articles within 2020. *Scimago Journal & Country Rank*, ranks *Epilepsia Open* at the Q2 of Neurology journals, with 2.707 citations per article published over the last 2 years, which is remarkable considering that the journal only entered PMC within 2018 (**Figure 5**).

An increasing number of articles are getting cited with the 5 top cited ranging between 29-108 citations/article (only Web of Science journal citations included), and 20 articles received 14 or more citations. *Epilepsia Open* (launched in September of 2016) is young to have an impact factor, however based on the rate of citations, we expect that it will have a strong impact factor when it is ready to receive one. The ESCI application has been submitted and we anticipate a decision in the near future.



## Indexing:

*Epilepsia Open* is already indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (2017), Pubmed Central (March 2018), Scopus (December 2018), EMBASE (November 2019). The application to ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index) has been submitted and decision is pending. The application to MEDLINE was submitted by Wiley in 2020.

## Special Issues

Two special issues are planned on:

- (a) Preclinical common data elements of the ILAE/AES Joint Translational Task Force

- (b) Special issue on “Redesigning the hypotheses for drug-resistant epilepsy” with guest editor Dr Luisa Lilla Rocha Arrieta, based on the proceedings of the Latin American Congress of Epilepsy.

Editorial board discussions have been held periodically to propose titles and special issue themes and Dr Rainer Surges and Eleonora Aronica have been tasked to compile suggestions for invited content for discussion.

## New article type

Due to the increasing number of collaborative studies, which result in multi-authored manuscripts that sometimes create difficulties in reflecting individual contributions of site investigators or describing in sufficient details site-specific methodologies or findings, *Epilepsia Open* initiates a new type of manuscript, “*multicenter original research articles*”. This will be a combination of site-specific short research articles and an overview manuscript that discusses the collaborative project rationale and study design and across site differences or similarities. Such multicenter articles can be either studies that are complementary or follow similar design. Because of their nature, this set of articles will be considered after approval by the Editors-in Chief and Deputy Editor, so that they can coordinate the peer review and publication if accepted. Once published, each will have a separate PMC / PubMed ID.

## Recommendations for Future Work

### Applications for inclusion to databases:

Decisions on submitted applications to ESCI and MEDLINE are pending.

### Marketing

Further marketing campaigns are planned by promoting sample issues, promotions at conferences, journal app, and promotion upon inclusion to PUBMED Central. Promotions will be done via email, newsletters, online ads, press releases, print ads, social media, and surveys. We will also try to target with these marketing tools countries from all continents.

### Submissions and workflow:

Goals for the upcoming year are to:

- (1) Increase the number of high-quality original research submissions,
- (2) Increase the number of invited reviews, special issues, and research from investigators and experts known for their high-quality publications on topics that are current and likely to generate interest from the readership.
- (3) Accelerate the peer review time and improve reviewer engagement and training of younger reviewers
- (4) Maintain the number of basic and translational science article submissions at high levels,
- (5) Continue the re-evaluation of the needs and thematic priorities of our journal so that it becomes competitive in the field of epilepsy publications.

Submitted by Aristeia Galanopoulou