

Committee Members

Dr. Kenneth M. Hargreaves, Chair
Dr. Anita Aminoshariae
Dr. Amir Azarpazhooh
Dr. Ashraf F. Fouad
Dr. Gerald N. Glickman
Dr. Jenny He
Dr. Ariadne Letra
Dr. Anil Kishen

Dr. Franklin R. Tay
Dr. Linda G. Levin
Dr. Frank Setzer
Dr. Brad Gettleman, Board Liaison
Lindsay Allen, Elsevier
Ken Widelka, Staff Liaison
Kimberly FitzSimmons, Staff Liaison
Elisabeth Lisican, Staff Liaison

Meetings

The Editorial Board Committee met in person at AAE24 and by teleconference and conducted routine business throughout the year via email and the EES manuscript website. The following provides a report of completed activities for our *Journal of Endodontics*.

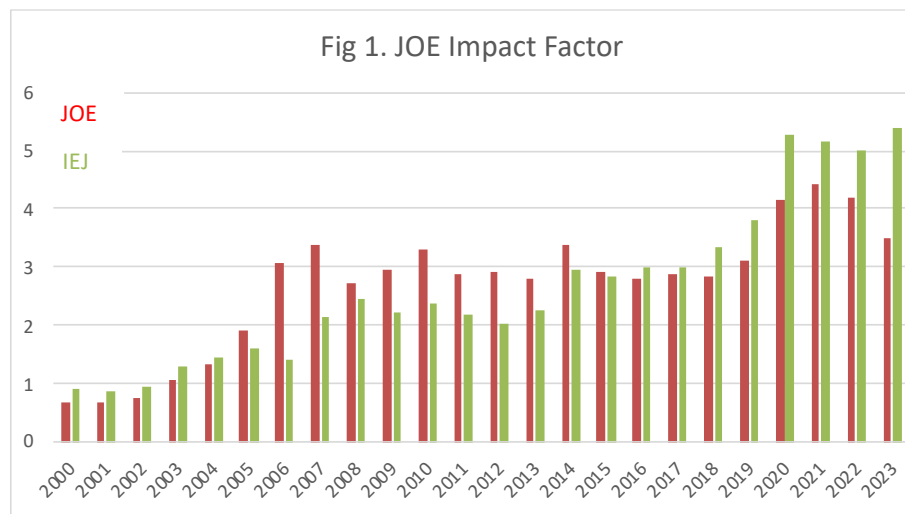
Mission of the *Journal of Endodontics*:

The *Journal of Endodontics* is the official journal of the American Association of Endodontists. The *Journal* achieves global impact by serving as an authoritative resource that publishes high quality and timely contributions related to the art and science of endodontics and pulp biology from the fields of clinical and basic sciences, clinical therapeutics and educational research.

Completed Activities:

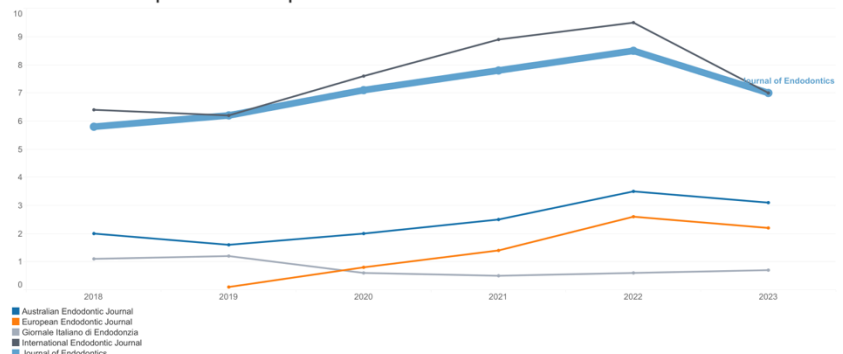
We are proud to report the continued successes that have occurred with the *Journal* this year. With >382 endodontists and scientists from >25 countries currently serving as members of our Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), the *JOE* represents a substantial commitment to excellence by AAE members and endodontists around the world. Together, we believe that we have made steady progress in our efforts to improve an already strong publication, and we look forward to continued improvement in future years.

1. The *JOE* has developed an outstanding Impact Factor over the last two decades (Fig 1A). The Impact Factor is a measure of how often a published paper is cited over the previous two years, and thus provides one measure of the scientific impact of a journal. Other measures are also quite strong: in 2023, the *JOE* generated twice as many citations and published more papers than the *IEJ*. (Please note that the 2024 Impact Factor will not be published until summer of 2025).



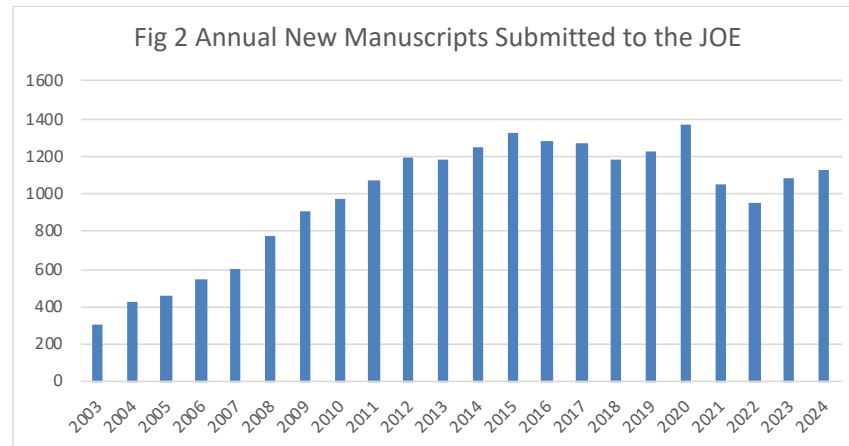
Elsevier has recently supported another method to analyze the scientific impact of a journal. This metric is called “CiteScore” and measures the total number of citations over a three year period (vs two years for the Impact Factor metric). The *JOE* performs very well on this metric as does the *IEJ* (Fig 1B). Indeed, the *JOE* was ranked 15th out of 158 journals in dentistry based on the CiteScore rank in the category of Dentistry and Oral Surgery.

Journal Comparison Scopus CiteScore



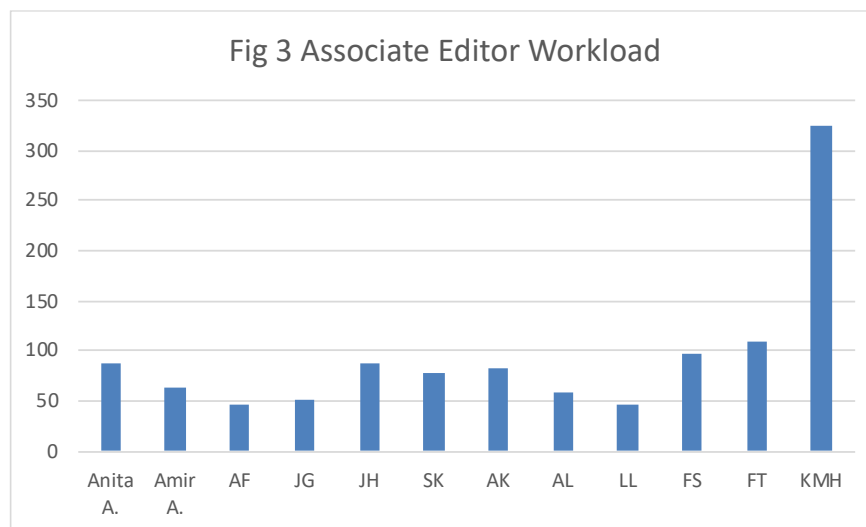
- There has been a 266% increase in the number of new manuscripts submitted to the *JOE* from 2003-2024 (Fig 2). We attribute this increase to the web-based manuscript submission system started in 2004 and (we hope) to the increasing stature of the *Journal*. This increase in submissions

consisted of many manuscripts of good quality. In addition to the 1,131 new manuscripts submitted in 2024, an additional 253 revised manuscripts were submitted in response to a prior review. Thus, the Editorial Board reviewed a total of 1,384 manuscripts submitted in 2024, which equates to about 3.8 papers submitted every day throughout the year. We believe the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on increased submissions in 2020, with a reversion towards the mean appearing in subsequent years.



- Our goal is to have a 6-9 month backlog between manuscript acceptance and publication. Our backlog for 2024 was ~1 months between manuscript acceptance and publication.

- Our Associate Editors are charged with the responsibility of seeking independent reviewers for submitted manuscripts, monitoring the review process, and making recommendations of acceptance, rejection or revision. The 2024 Associate Editors were: Drs. Amir Azarpazhooh, Anita Aminoshariae, Ashraf Fouad, Gerald Glickman, Jianing He, Sahng Kim, Anil Kishen, Ariadne Letra, Linda Levin, Frank Setzer and Frank Tay. These are truly gifted endodontists who have made substantial contributions to the *Journal* over their time of service. Ken Hargreaves also serves as one of the reviewing editors. The 2024 distribution of new and revised manuscript assignments for this editorial team is presented in Figure 3. Differences in manuscript assignments among the Associate Editors reflect differences in subject matter interest, availability or timing of recruitment.

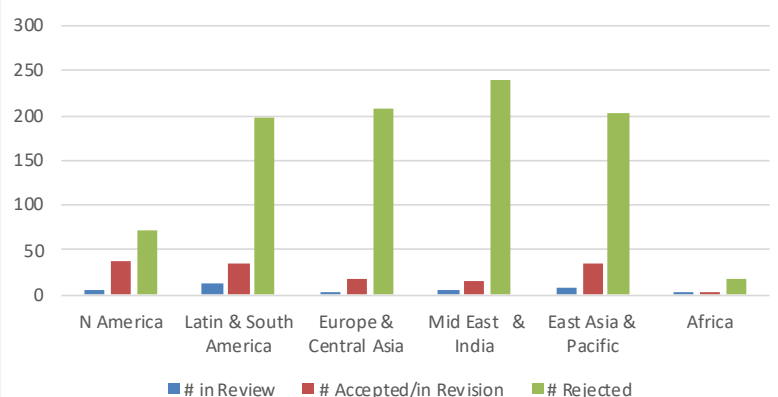


- The following provides a summary of the performance measures of the web-based review process for 2020:

- a. Of the 1,131 new submissions, the review process took an average of 3.3 days for the editor to assign an Associate Editor, an average of 7.8 days for the associate editor to assign two reviewers, and an additional 27.9 days for the reviews to be completed. Over the last 21 years (= all available data), we have experienced about a 26% increase in the delay from manuscript submission to first decision (**Table 1**). An ongoing initiative of the EBC is to improve reviewer turn-around times and quality of reviews (see below).
- b. We request a 14 day deadline for reviewers to complete their review. Of 1,044 reviews completed in 2023, the average review time was 17.9 days; 660 reviews were completed at an average of 5.6 days earlier than our deadline and 401 reviews were submitted an average of 11.9 days late. Every reviewer is sent a thank you note from the website that reminds them of the opportunity to log on and read the (blinded) email to the author containing the comments of the editor and other reviewer. However, we do note that 563 reviewer invitations were declined; we do not know if this was related possible reviewer burn-out or other issues.
6. The review process resulted in 22% of new and revised manuscripts being accepted, and 78% being declined for publication. Our objective is not to needlessly reject manuscripts, but instead to improve the quality of published manuscripts and to reduce the delay in publication. **Fig 4** illustrates the global impact of the JOE.
7. Elsevier has recently introduced a very important new application for our online manuscript review. It is called “CrossCheck” by iThenticate. CrossCheck compares text in the submitted manuscript to a very large database of previously published papers and calculates a % similarity value. Thus, the Editor runs CrossCheck on every submitted manuscript and then manually reviews the results to identify potential plagiarism issues. This has resulted in about 1-3 manuscripts per month being rejected from further consideration by the JOE.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Time to 1st Decision</u>	<u>% change from 2004</u>
2004	24.2 days	
2005	22	-10%
2006	26	8%
2007	26	7%
2008	28	16%
2009	30	25%
2010	40	64%
2011	36	48%
2012	36	50%
2013	43	77%
2014	39	61%
2015	32	33%
2016	37	53%
2017	38	59%
2018	34	42%
2019	37	53%
2020	33	35%
2021	27	12%
2022	26.2	8%
2023	27.8	15%
2024	30.5	26%

Fig 4. Worldwide Distribution of Manuscripts



8. The 2024 Scientific Advisory Board consisted of 391 reviewers from >25 countries. The reviewers were selected for their expertise and their distribution across educational programs and include many in private practice. Approximately 60% of the reviewers are in the USA or Canada, and we continue to expand the list of international reviewers. Reviewers have identified their interest in reviewing manuscripts based on selected topics. The Associate Editor uses this list to help identify potential reviewers for each assigned manuscript. The rationale for segregating reviewers by topic is to ensure selection of appropriate reviewers for each particular manuscript. In 2015, Elsevier began sponsoring a reception to honor members of the SAB. We thank Elsevier for their support of initiatives to recognize and thank SAB members and to recognize the JOE Paper of the Year Awardees..
9. While our database indicates that we have 391 reviewers in 2024, an analysis by Drs. Frank Setzer and Jianing He indicates that this list is inaccurate due to incorrect emails, retirements, lack of participation in 2024 or lack of interest. The total number of SAB members over all years (e.g., not just active in 2024) is 704 reviewers, but this includes data with incorrect emails, duplicates, AAE staff/EBC members, etc. The actual total number of authentic SAB members is 635. We are working with Elsevier to send out a blast email to request that SAB members log in and update their information (including areas of expertise) or to inform us that they wish to retire from the SAB. This was an incredible effort that required considerable manual curating and we wish to acknowledge and thank Drs. Setzer and He for this important contribution to the Journal.
10. Ms Lindsay Allen of Elsevier serves as our Publisher company. Mr Joe Butler serves as our Journal Manager. We continue to have very positive interactions with Elsevier. The Editorial Manager website is superb and has had very little downtime. We have had reports from several reviewers about problems logging into the website; Elsevier is still studying this issue. Manuscript production quality and timeliness are in general quite good. There are several identified individuals who are charged with solving various problems and service is good.
11. A sub-committee of the EBC, consisting of Drs. Kishen (Chair), He and Kim, conducted the selection process after receiving nominations for the JOE Paper of the Year Award. This initiative was approved by the BOD in May 2014 and the process was instituted that year.
12. We have experienced a consistent amount of advertisements that require revision or rejection due to unsubstantiated claims, inappropriate reference to other companies, or a lack of professional appearance of the ad. As specified in our Policies and Procedures Manual, all ads must be approved by the Editor prior to publication. In the event of a suitable concern, the Editor forms a sub-committee consisting of EBC members and a past-president of the AAE who evaluate the submitted ad and make a determination. This occurred approximately 12 times in 2023, with most interactions occurring with 1-2 vendors.
13. In July 2019, the EBC started a monthly editorial highlighting selected articles from that issue of the journal. Our intent is to increase readership awareness of certain papers and to provide some

insight into their potential impact. We have started an online vote to determine if our readers enjoy this feature. The survey is at the JOE online website (www.JEndodon.com). To date, 88% of the voters (N = 1235) find the new editorial to be helpful.

14. In 2021, we developed a Digital JOE sub-committee consisting of the Editorial Board Committee Chair Dr. Ken Hargreaves, along with Drs. Anita Aminoshariae, Ariadne Letra, Kevin Kuo, Helen Meyer, Robert Roda and Frank Setzer. Taking a research-based approach, the group developed a JOE digital strategy with the overall goal of creating a JOE online experience for the next generation of endodontists that's relevant for treating the patient now, and 10 years from now. We have since implemented this digital strategy in numerous ways. For example, we have integrated JOE into our overall social strategy, regularly promoting new issues of JOE and also running social campaigns such as "JOE on the Go", asking members to share photos of where they read JOE. We also have integrated JOE into AAE newsletters, regularly featuring each new issue in our Eye on Education e-newsletter, and articles weekly in our Endo In the News e-newsletter. One of the biggest components of our digital strategy has been our Federated (Universal) website search, which launched in 2024 and is currently functioning effectively to include Journal content in aae.org searches. Also in 2024, we published seven newly updated AAE position statements in JOE, satisfying part of Goal 1--Content Objectives. Finally, we are exploring sharing and increasing usage of visuals and graphical abstracts in the Journal.
15. We have developed a staggered set of three year terms for Associate Editors that can be renewed. The goal is to provide a solid corps of experienced editors that still provides an opportunity for periodic infusion of new leadership. The current terms are indicated in the Table below. In particular, we wish to thank the incredible leadership and expertise provided by Dr. Ashraf Fouad over his tenure as an EBC member/Associate Editor of the JOE. Ashraf has tirelessly worked to improve the quality of the JOE and its worldwide impact. The Associate Editors and I are fortunate to call him mentor, colleague and friend.

Associate Editor	Term Ends	New Appointee	Term Ends
Anita Aminoshariae	2027		
Amir Azarpazhooh	2027		
Ashraf Fouad	2024	Ronald Ordinola Zapata	2028
Jerry Glickman	2027		
Ken Hargreaves	2027		
Jianing He	2025		

Sahng Kim	2025		
Anil Kishen	2027		
Ariadne Letra	2027		
Linda Levin	2026		
Frank Setzer	2027		
Frank Tay	2027		