

Editorial

Chief editor's 2018 annual report



We have completed yet another exciting year at *RBMO*. Most importantly the broad scope of the journal's content and the close interaction between the editorial office staff and the editors and the authors remains a constant strength. In addition, we completely updated the layout of the journal: both the artwork and logo on the cover and also the layout of the papers themselves. We are very proud of the new look and feel of *RBMO*, which is now completely in line with the identity of the journal, the growth of the field and our level of ambition! During summer, the editorial office moved to Bourn Hall, Cambridge, UK, a most fitting location. After extensive discussions over the years, we also decided to introduce a structured abstract for all clinical articles.

RBMO represents a 'research family' initially brought together and guided by Professor Bob Edwards, not linked to any single society, so we can benefit from multiple affiliations. These circumstances have advantages, but also generate challenges in a highly competitive world. As an example, a strong relationship has been established with Controversies in Obstetrics and Gynecology (COGI) where the 'Best of *RBMO*' publications are presented annually. Moreover, we have strengthened our relationship with the global embryology society Alpha and established new relationships with the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS).

In January 2019 we were proud to welcome three new editors: Professor Felice Petraglia from Italy, Professor Chris Barrat from Scotland, and Professor

Rene Eijkemans from The Netherlands. We all very much look forward working with them. Further details can be found in their individual *Meet our new editor* contribution (Petraglia, 2019; Barrat, 2019; Eijkemans, 2019).

JOURNAL PERFORMANCE

Submissions: Over the years we have witnessed a steady increase in the number of submissions. The current rejection rate is running at just under 80%, with 50% of these rejections being decided by the editors within a week. We aim to increase the number of papers published to 200 per annum (FIGURE 1).

Response time: The average speed of papers being either rejected after external review or accepted and published is shown in FIGURE 2. The

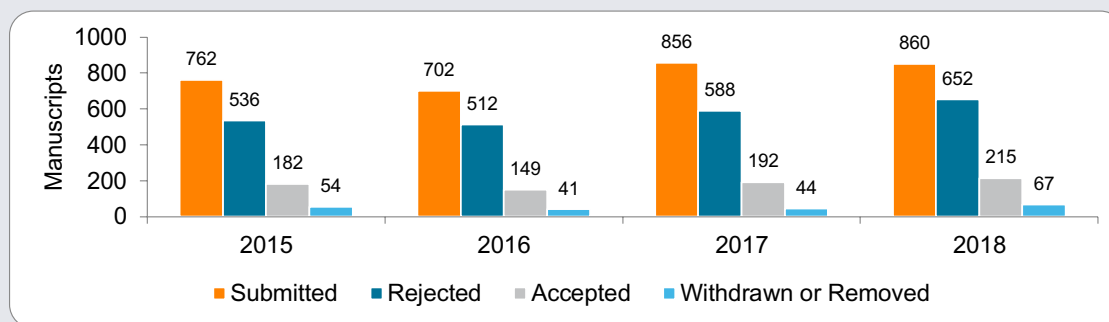


FIGURE 1 Annual number of manuscripts accepted and rejected by *RBMO*.

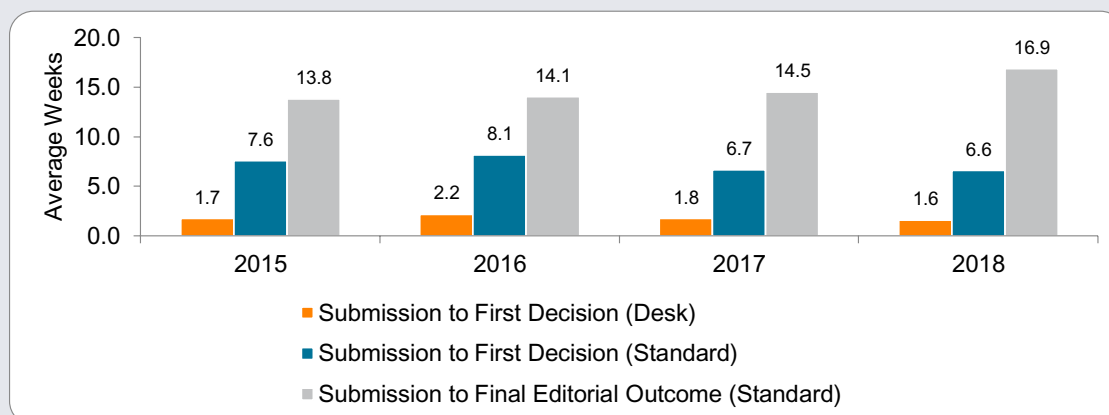


FIGURE 2 Average speed for accepting or rejecting manuscripts by *RBMO*. Submission to First Decision = average number of weeks from submission date to first decision date. Submission to Final Editorial Outcome = average number of weeks from submission date to editorial outcome date.

TABLE 1 MOST CITED RBMO PUBLICATIONS (TO OCTOBER 2018)

No. of citations	Article title	Author	Publication year	Research area
329	Highly efficient vitrification method for cryopreservation of human oocytes	Kuwayama et al.	2005	Embryology
178	Over 900 oocyte cryopreservation babies born with no apparent increase in congenital anomalies	Noyes et al.	2009	Embryology
145	Modelling a risk classification of aneuploidy in human embryos using non-invasive morphokinetics	Campbell et al.	2013	Embryology
144	Male infertility: Role of genetic background	Ferlin et al.	2007	Male
102	Recurrent implantation failure: Definition and management	Coughlan et al.	2014	Infertility
95	Successful vitrification of bovine and human ovarian tissue	Kagawa et al.	2009	Experimental
64	Double stimulations during the follicular and luteal phases of poor responders in IVF/ICSI programmes (Shanghai protocol)	Kuang et al.	2014	ART
46	Live birth derived from oocyte spindle transfer to prevent mitochondrial disease	Zhang et al.	2017	ART
39	Oocyte cryopreservation for social reasons: Demographic profile and disposal intentions of UK users	Baldwin et al.	2015	Infertility
21	Time-lapse culture with morphokinetic embryo selection improves pregnancy and live birth chances and reduces early pregnancy loss: a meta-analysis	Pribenszky et al.	2017	Embryology

duration between submission and publication of the adjudicated and edited papers has slowly increased over the years to 41 weeks. We – in agreement with authors – considered this clearly too long, and have taken the following measures to address this, effective from November 2018:

- Within 2 weeks after acceptance, a paper will be available on line in its unedited form. At this stage, the paper can be cited and referenced as ‘*epub ahead of print*’.
 - The subsequent adjudication, editing and publication in its final form will be within 4 additional weeks.
 - We aim for a maximum of 20 weeks between submission of the initial manuscript and the actual online publication of the accepted article.
- We can assure the authors submitting their work to *RBMO* that we will continue to monitor this editorial process closely.

Impact factor: The impact factor of *RBMO* remains steady at around 3, resulting in a ranking in 2018 at position 14 out of 82 in the research category

Obstetrics and Gynecology and position 8 out of 29 in Reproductive Biology. The most cited *RBMO* papers (**TABLE 1**) are in the research area of embryology, in keeping with the history of the journal.

Source of submissions: We are happy to see that – after Europe – a very significant proportion of papers published in the journal continues to come from the Asian Pacific region (**FIGURE 3A**), and there is a good spread of manuscripts submitted in the different sections (**FIGURE 3B**), with the section ART, not surprisingly, as the biggest.

Author feedback: As in previous years, the feedback from authors (**FIGURE 4**) reflects appreciation of many characteristics of *RBMO* such as the quality of support provided by the editorial office, along with the scope, reputation and impact factor of the journal. On the negative side, the slow refereeing speed is noted and now hopefully addressed appropriately.

For a comparison of last year's *RBMO* performance with previous years, see

Fausser, 2016; Fausser, 2017; and Fausser and Ahuja, 2018.

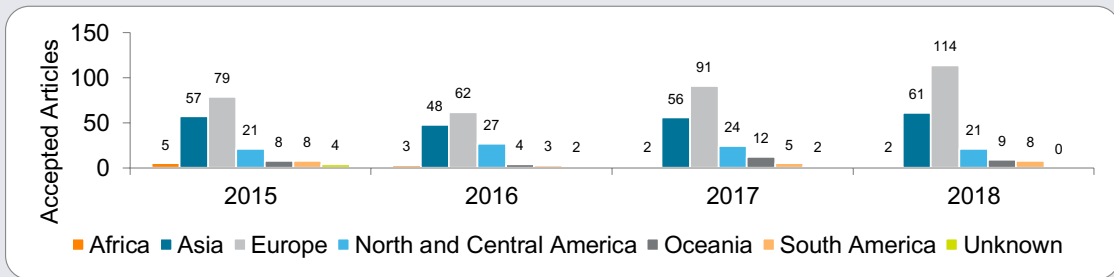
LOOKING AHEAD

In 2019 we will focus on attracting more high-quality submissions from around the globe, improving our editorial process, publishing more papers and increasing our impact factor. We will monitor progress in these aspects closely. We also aim to expand the scope of the journal through partnerships and more prominent social media presence.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to our esteemed colleagues, willing to act as referees and to provide us with their evaluation in good time. Without your help we would not be able to maintain our current standards. In addition, we would like to urge authors to submit their revised manuscript within 4 weeks following provisional acceptance or a request to revise and resubmit for further consideration.

Please continue to provide us with your feedback.

a



b

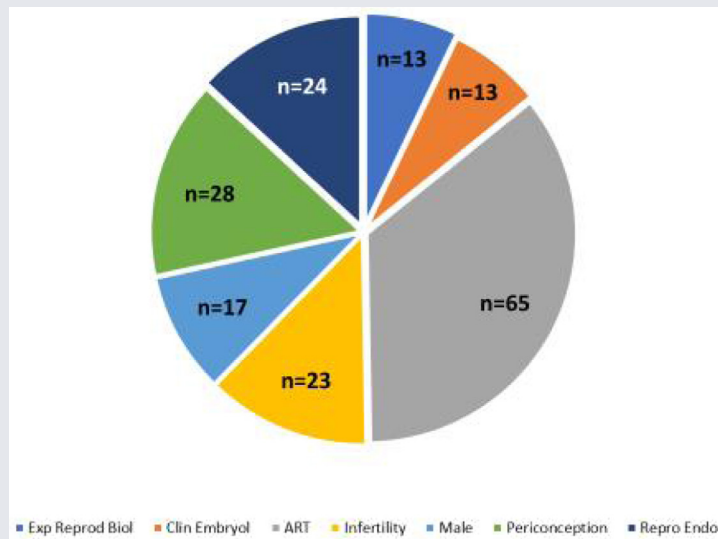


FIGURE 3 Accepted RBMO publications by year (a) and per section for 2018 (b).

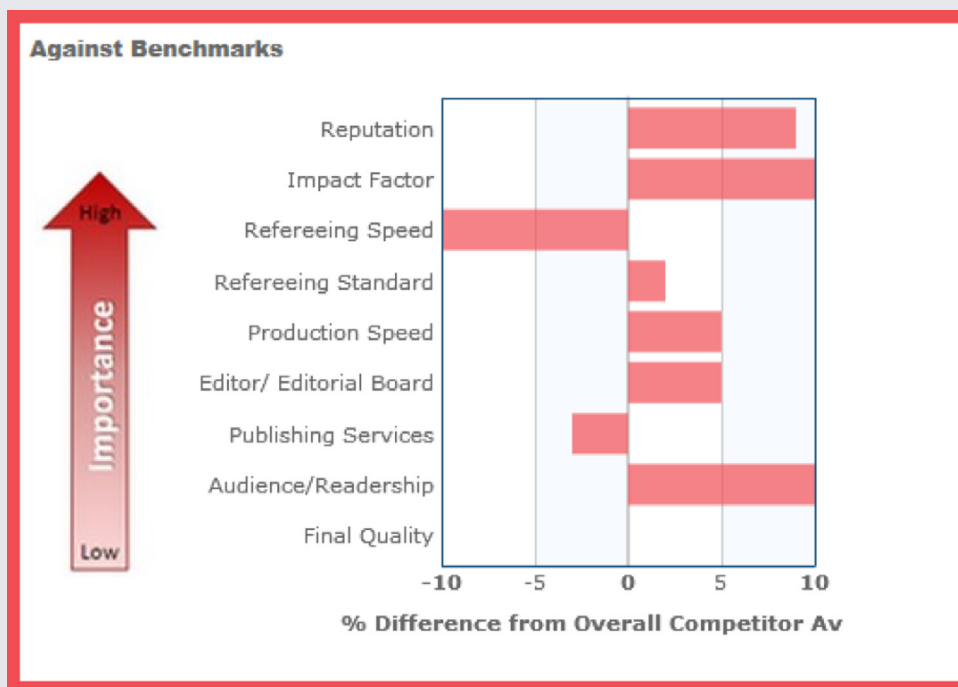


FIGURE 4 Author feedback for 2018.

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