

Editorial

A Healthy and Happy 2019

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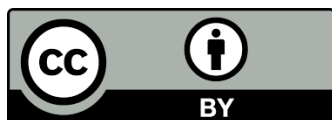
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At the beginning of a new year it is a tradition to wish each other that the year to come will be healthy and happy. In case of our journal *OBM Genetics* this is likely to become true because the future of scholarly publishing is in open access. That is clear from the developments in the past year.

On 4 September 2018 an initiative for open-access science publishing was launched by the European Research Council and major national research agencies and funders from twelve European countries. It requires scientists and researchers who benefit from state-funded research organisations and institutions to publish their work in open repositories or in journals that are available to all by 2020.

Currently national research funding organisations and three charitable foundations from 13 countries have agreed to implement the following 10 principles:

1. Authors should retain copyright on their publications, which must be published under an open license such as Creative Commons;
2. The members of the coalition should establish robust criteria and requirements for compliant open access journals and platforms;
3. They should also provide incentives for the creation of compliant open access journals and platforms if they do not yet exist;
4. Publication fees should be covered by the funders or universities, not individual researchers;
5. Such publication fees should be standardized and capped;
6. Universities, research organizations, and libraries should align their policies and strategies;



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7. For books and monographs, the timeline may be extended beyond 2020;
8. Open archives and repositories are acknowledged for their importance;
9. Hybrid open-access journals are not compliant with the key principle;
10. Members of the coalition should monitor and sanction non-compliance.

This so-called Plan S is perfectly suited for *OBM Genetics*. It was not a surprise that it was met with opposition from a number of publishers of non-open access journals. However, on 4 December 2018 a statement of support was signed by 113 institutions from 37 nations in 5 continents, affirming that there was a strong alignment among the approaches taken by OA2020, Plan S, the Jussieu Call for Open science and bibliodiversity, and others to facilitate a full transition to immediate Open Access. One day later it emerged that the Ministry of Science and Technology of China would support Plan S and the goal of immediate Open Access for publicly funded projects. By the way, in 2018 China has become the world's largest producer of scientific articles in terms of volume (See Wikipedia)

Therefore, one can conclude that the start of *OBM Genetics* has been just in time to be ready for this major shift in academic publishing that will take place next year.

Many developments in the past year show that our journal is on its way to become a high quality, high impact open access journal. First of all, our Editorial Board was very active, as a result of which, in 2018, *OBM Genetics* hosted 7 Special Issues. Thereinto, 63 papers have been submitted and 34 papers were successfully published. The total number of manuscripts published in 2018 was 47.

Almost half of these were review articles:

Figure 1 Distribution by article type.

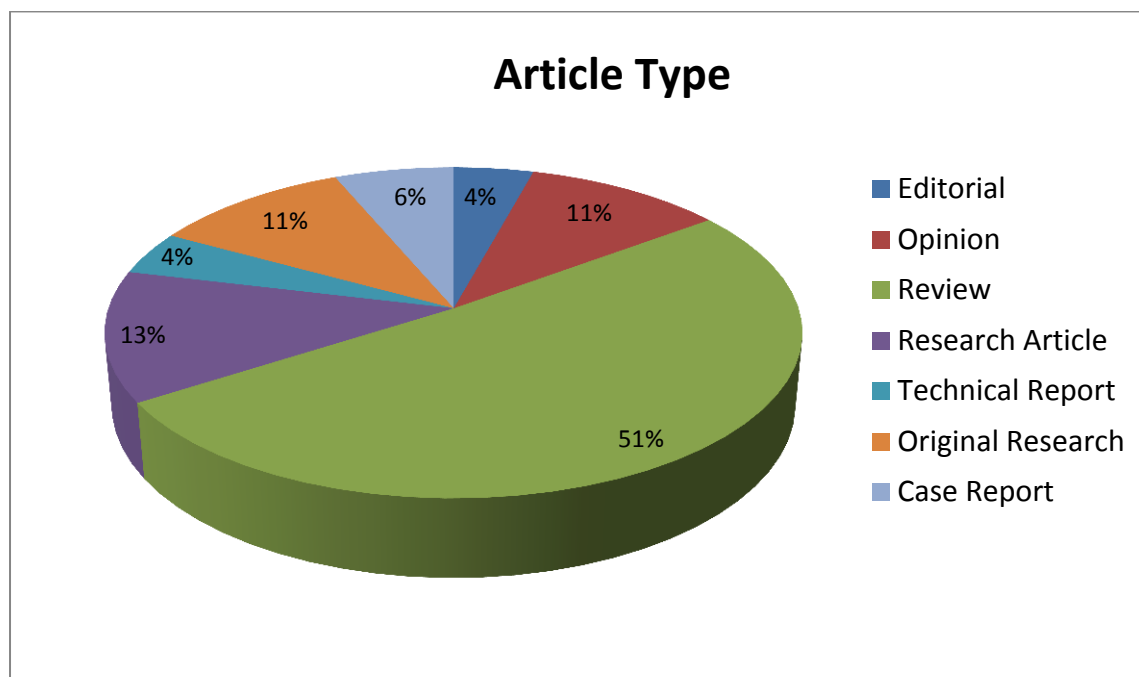
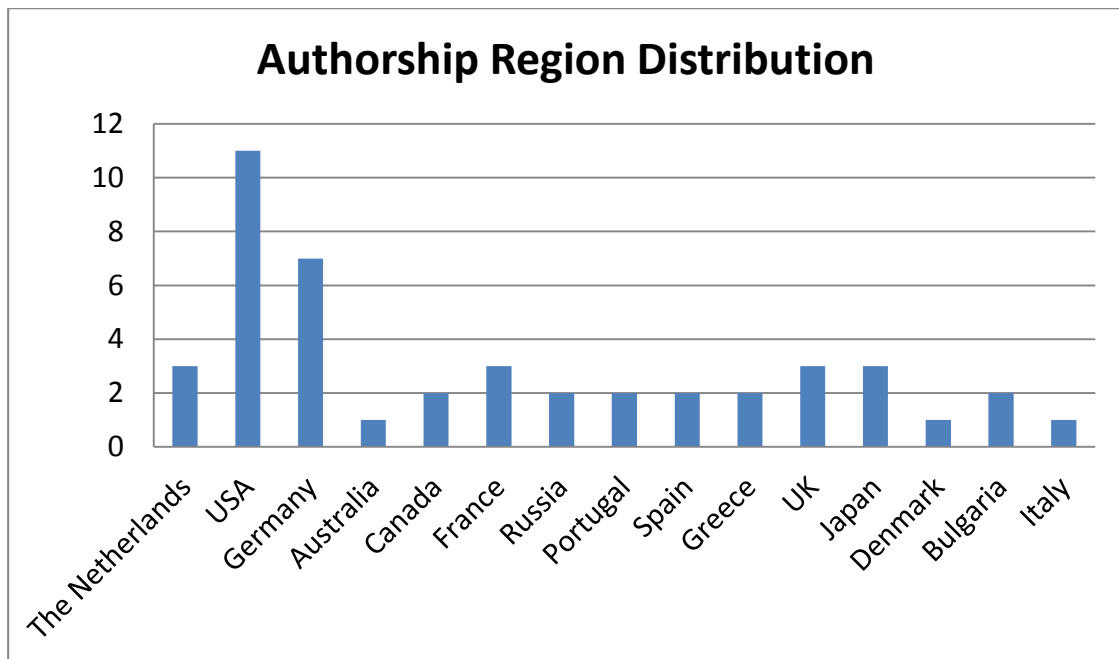


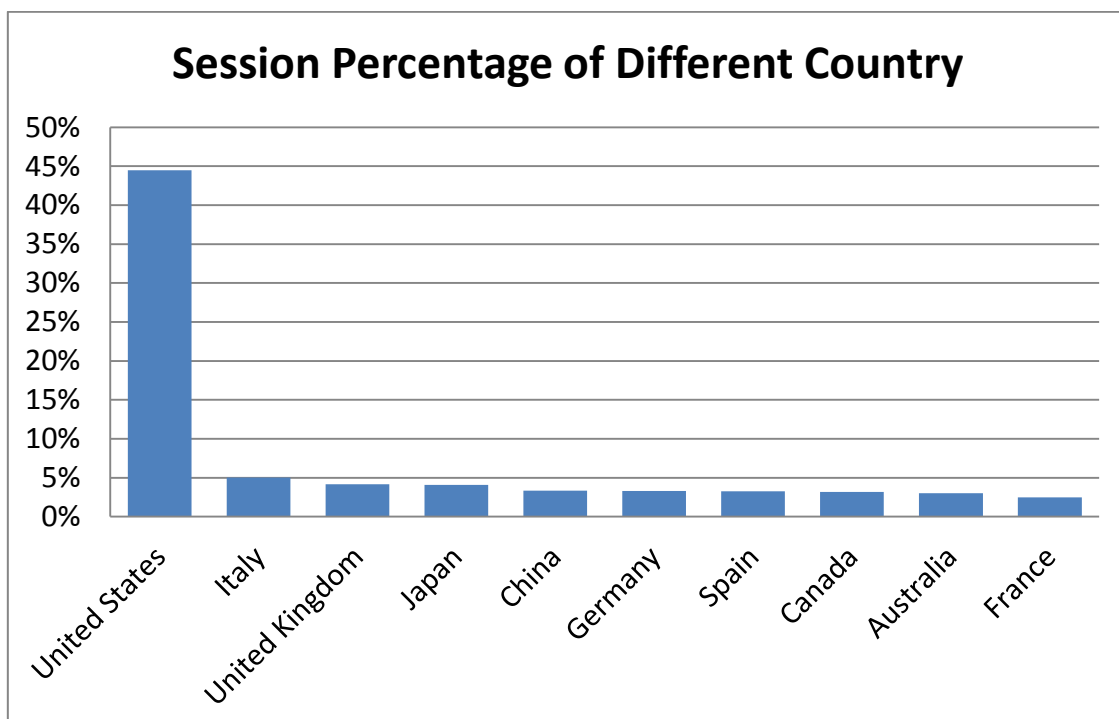
Figure 2 Region distributions of the authors.



Furthermore, a higher efficiency and quality of calling for papers was realised and the period from peer review to publication was greatly shortened compared with last year. In addition, the staffs at the Editorial Office of LIDSEN were not only committed to the efficient production of the journal but also to its promotion.

In this respect it is interesting to note that the online readership, measured as the total number of visits to the website of *OBM Genetics* through Google was not less than 45,203.

Figure 3 Distribution of online readership.



In 2018 the ISSN number for *OBM Genetics* has been assigned: ISSN 2577-5790. Early this year we will be ready to apply for DOAJ and PMC. At the end of the year we hope to apply for PubMed.

All these developments are very positive and could not have been achieved without a very active Editorial Board (see all members in addendum 1), many colleagues who have provided high quality reviews (see addendum 2) and the continuous support from Julie Jin, Managing Editor and her staff at the *OBM Genetics* Editorial Office (LIDSEN Publishing Inc.)

We hope that the year to come will be even more productive and look forward to the contributions from many new authors, the reviews from a growing group of referees, the renewed support from the Editorial Board members and the staff of the Editorial Office and last but not least the continued interest of the readers.

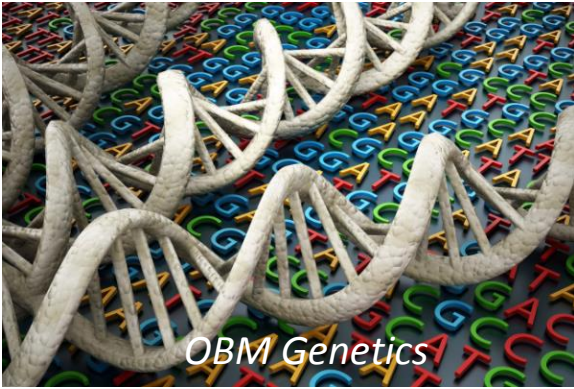
Joep Geraedts, Editor in Chief

Addendum 1 List of Editorial Board Members 2018.

Ali Aghajani-refah, USA	Marcel Mannens, the Netherlands
Mauricio Arcos-Burgos, Colombia	Jose J. G. Marin, Spain
Tapan K Bera, USA	John Marshall, UK
Lunawati L Bennett, USA	Ruud ter Meulen, UK
James CS Chim, Hong Kong	Ute Moog, Germany
Andrew Collins, UK	Andrés Moya, Spain
David N. Cooper, UK	Khue Vu Nguyen, USA
Domenico Coviello, Italy	Veena N Rao, USA
Katalin Csiszar, USA	François Rousseau, Canada
Kakoli Das, Singapore	Miodrag Stojkovic, Serbia
Juraj Gregan, Slovakia	Mark Stoneking, Germany
Darren Griffin, UK	Sonia M. Suter, USA
Xiangzi Han, USA	Sergei G. Tevosian, USA
Jaroslav Alois Hubáček, Czech Republic	Joanne Traeger-Synodinos, Greece
Helena Kääriäinen, Finland	Joris A. Veltman, UK
Michael R. Ladomery, UK	Stéphane Viville, France
Thomas Liehr, Germany	Xuehuo Zeng, USA
Milan Macek Jr., Czech Republic	

Addendum 2 List of Reviewers in 2018.

José Manuel Varela Aguilar	Xiangzi Han	Shuji Ogino
Aamir Ahmad	Hardivillé	Tetsuya Okuda
Beth J. Allison	Shikun He	Marta Olejniczak
Sally A. Amundson	Steven Head	Sandro Orru
Maria Andreassi	Amin Herati	Hyun Jung Park
Carmen Imma Aquino	Xupeng Hong	Carlos Pendón
Philippe Arnaud	Heidi Howard	Siddharth Prakash
Joan-Francesc Barquinero	Ivan Iourov	Parameswaran Ramakrishnan
Leonardo Barrios	Erik Iwarsson	Gopala Rangan
Peter Bauer	Richie Jeremian	Laureana Rebordinos
Felix E G Beaudry	Masayo Kagami	Mauricio J. Reginato
P. Benn	Yukako Katsura	Georg Richtig
William F. Blakely	Boris Keren	JD Roberts
Clara Bonaglia	Milla Kibble	Franz Rödel
Enrique Calderon	Elena S. Kim	Ivica Rubelj
Eduardo S. Cantú	Jay K Kolls	Susana Ruiz-Ruiz
Enrico Capobianco	Dieter Kotzot	Gary Schiller
Chiara Castronovo	Evagelia C. Laiakis	Karen Sermon
Nimrat Chatterjee	C.-J. Li	Deqiang Sun
Pao-Yang Chen	Thomas Liehr	Heidi G. Sutherland
Andrew Collins	I-Hsuan Lin	Yusuke Suzuki
Rebecca Daley	John Mahan	KI Takayama
Tamara L Davis	Francesca Malvestiti	Andrew E. Teschendorff
Meelad M Dawlaty	Hendrik Marks	Hauke Thomsen
Peter H. Duesberg	Olga Matos	Stephanie R. Thorn
Paul L. Durham	Gert Matthijs	Neslihan Turgut-Kara
K Eisermann	Nadine M. Melhem	Divya Uppala
Maurizio Elia	Marsha Michie	Karl Heinz Weiss
R Feil	J Milašin	Tryon Wickersham
Peter Ferenci	Robert F Miller	Hao Wu
Claudia Gasparini	Ute Moog	Mark Wunderlich
Javier González-Maeso	S Mujtaba	Shaojun Xie
Eric Grégoire	Chris Murgatroyd	Drakoulis Yannoukakos
Darren Griffin	Richelle Mychasiuk	Beverly M. Yashar
M Guida	Shalima Nair	Xuehuo Zeng
B Haendler	Gilles Nevez	



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