

Performance Metrics

The appointment of a full-time Managing Editor, as well as the implementation of accelerated *Journal of Forensic Sciences* (*JFS*) peer review timelines and process enhancements (per the *JFS* Working Group’s recommended restructure and process modifications approved by the AAFS Board of Directors/Executive Committee) resulted in substantial improvements in turnaround time for *JFS* submissions. Tables providing various performance metrics are provided below.

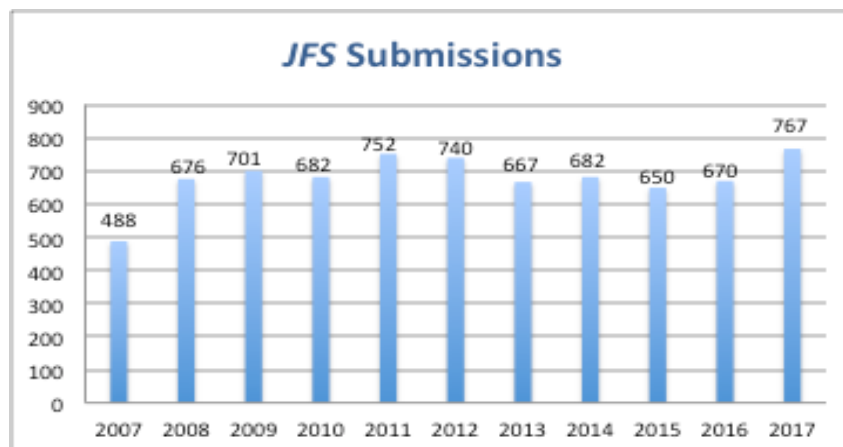
Submission to Decision: Performance Metrics	2016 (Average)	2017 (Average)
Average Days from Submission to First Decision	83	29
Average Time to Assign Reviewers (days) – Original Submission	19*	3*
Average Time to Assign Reviewers (days) – Revision	12*	3*
Average Reviewer Turnaround Time (days) – Original Submission	21	13
Average Reviewer Turnaround Time (days) – Revision	22	13
Average Days from Original Submission to Final Decision	103	40
*Data is the number of days it took an invited reviewer to accept their invitation.		

Final Decision to Early View: Performance Metrics	Average (mean)	Average (median)	Range
January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016	161	168	41-320
January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017	40	31	10-164

Manuscript Export to Early View: Performance Metrics	Average (mean)	Average (median)	Range
January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016	50	34	16-210
January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017	37*	28	10-164
*Reduction due in part to <i>JFS</i> Editorial Office/Wiley June 2017 meeting takeaway of reducing Wiley’s production workflow turnaround for “Manuscript Export to Early View” to 21 days (was 47).			

Total Original Items Submitted in 2017

A total of 767 original submissions were received in 2017 (1,122 inclusive with revisions), which is record setting for *JFS*.



Manuscripts with Final Decision in 2017 (Final Decision Accept / Reject Ratio)

JFS manuscript submissions for 2017 set an all-time record. Efforts to uphold a more rigorous review of *JFS* manuscripts continued in 2017. As a result, of those that received final decision the rejection rate increased to 55.5%, with 44.5% accepted. A table and graph charting the *JFS* Accept/Reject Ratios for the past six years is provided below. In addition, during 2017 the *JFS* Editor-in-Chief withdrew 149 manuscripts at the point of submission (19.5% of total submissions).

Final Decision Accept / Reject Ratios		
Year	Accept %	Reject %
2012	57.6%	42.4%
2013	55.6%	44.4%
2014	49.8%	50.2%
2015	47.8%	52.2%
2016	46.8%	53.2%
2017	44.5%	55.5%

