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As a journal representing the international community, *Epilepsia* has a mission to support and disseminate high quality research from all regions of the world, and the Journal strives to maintain transnational balance and perspective. However, it is not uncommon to receive oral comments and letters, like the one by Hu et al. in this issue, that question if *Epilepsia* really serves the international community or if the Journal favors one country over another with respect to published manuscripts.

Such a question is not unreasonable, and as Editors it is our view that the best way to address this question is through data. Table 1 shows the number of papers submitted to and accepted by *Epilepsia* from 2008 to 2013 according to country. Since 2008, *Epilepsia* has received manuscripts from 88 countries from all regions of the world. Of these, 77 were countries with International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) chapters, and 11 were countries without chapters. This represents 69% of all countries with ILAE chapters.

There is a somewhat skewed distribution of submissions by country but not for number of papers accepted and acceptance rates. The mean (\pm standard deviation [SD]) number of submissions by country was 60 ± 160 (range 1–1,321), with a median of 6. Fourteen countries (16%) submitted >100 manuscripts each, which represents 79% of all submissions. These countries include Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States, with the United States being the highest (25% of all submissions). The mean (\pm SD) number of accepted papers by country was 20 ± 63 (range 0–532), with a median of 1. Twenty-nine countries had 10 or more papers accepted by *Epilepsia* from 2008 to 2013, which was 96% of all published papers for that period. Those 29 countries represented all ILAE regions except for Africa, with the highest number from the United States (the same country with the highest number of submissions representing 30% of all accepted papers). The mean (\pm SD) percentage of accepted paper by country was $25 \pm 28\%$ (range 0–100%), with a median of 19%. Of countries that submitted 20 or more papers from 2008 to 2013, 22 (25%) had acceptance rates of 30% or greater. The five countries with the highest acceptance rates were Denmark (62%), New Zealand (58%), Australia (51%), United Kingdom (46%), and Hong Kong (44%).

Table 1. Submissions and acceptances by country for *Epilepsia* 2008–2013

Country	Accept	Submit
Algeria	0	1
Argentina	5	20
Armenia	0	1
Australia	90	177
Austria	16	50
Bangladesh	0	1
Belgium	19	62
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1
Brazil	37	174
Bulgaria	0	2
Cameroon	3	4
Canada	95	227
Chile	0	4
China	27	261
Colombia	0	1
Costa Rica	0	1
Croatia	0	3
Cuba	0	5
Cyprus	1	1
Czech Republic	10	40
Denmark	21	34
Ecuador	0	3
Egypt	1	19
Estonia	0	3
Ethiopia	1	1
Finland	19	49
France	63	179
Georgia	0	2
Germany	154	366
Greece	1	23
Honduras	1	1
Hong Kong	8	18
Hungary	11	27
Iceland	1	1
India	22	120
Iran, Islamic Republic of	4	30
Iraq	0	4
Ireland	11	37
Israel	22	56
Italy	143	374
Jamaica	0	2
Japan	67	293
Jordan	0	1
Kenya	5	12
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0	2
Republic of Korea	23	134
Kuwait	0	2

Continued

Table I. Continued.

Country	Accept	Submit
Lao People's Democratic Rep	0	1
Lebanon	0	6
Lithuania	1	2
Macao	0	1
Malawi	0	1
Malaysia	1	9
Malta	0	1
Mexico	2	29
Morocco	0	4
Nepal	0	2
The Netherlands	60	152
Netherlands Antilles	0	1
New Zealand	15	26
Nigeria	0	12
Norfolk Island	0	1
Norway	11	34
Oman	0	1
Pakistan	0	2
Peru	0	2
Poland	8	30
Portugal	10	32
Puerto Rico	1	2
Romania	0	1
Russian Federation	3	9
Saudi Arabia	1	9
Serbia	5	17
Singapore	2	9
Slovenia	1	1
South Africa	1	5
Spain	22	95
Sweden	15	38
Switzerland	31	76
Taiwan	15	81
Thailand	6	22
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1
Tunisia	2	3
Turkey	12	124
United Arab Emirates	1	2
United Kingdom	147	317
United States	532	1321
Vietnam	3	3

What do these data mean with respect to fulfilling the mission of *Epilepsia* as an international journal and having a paper accepted by individual country? *Epilepsia* is fulfilling

its mission by publishing high quality papers from around the world. Many published papers are from the United States; however, this is also the country with the highest number of submissions, so it should not be a surprise. Other countries also have higher acceptance rates. Hence, *Epilepsia* does not appear to discriminate in accepting papers by country.

As is true for journals with higher impact factors, *Epilepsia* makes acceptance decisions according to the quality and impact of submissions. As presented by Phil Schwartzkroin, immediate past Editor-in-Chief of *Epilepsia* in the accompanying letter from Dr. Hu and colleagues, those qualities include submissions that focus on important and interesting topics; have clearly stated goals and objectives; the observations and findings are novel and change the way we think about epilepsy; and the study is well designed and includes adequate sample size, comparison groups, and statistical analyses. It is also important that the data are appropriately interpreted and not overly construed.

We hope this addresses the question about publication by country for *Epilepsia*. The Journal is committed to publishing the best quality and high impact research related to epilepsy, especially of international importance. As Editors, we encourage authors, especially new investigators, to consider submitting your work to *Epilepsia*. We promise to give your work a fair review without bias to geography, but with a bias toward quality and impact.

We confirm that we have read the Journal's position on issues involved in ethical publication and affirm that this report is consistent with those guidelines.

Neither of the authors has any conflict of interest to disclose.

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