

# APJPH Editorial Report

April  
2019

Submitted to the Asia Pacific Consortium for  
Public Health

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## *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health*

### ***Executive Council Meeting***

*Date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019*

*Time: 2:00 p.m – 5:00 pm*

*Venue: University of Malaya,  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*



# Executive Summary

This report summarizes *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health's* January 2018 through December 2018 performance. Below is a snapshot of the journal's key performance metrics.

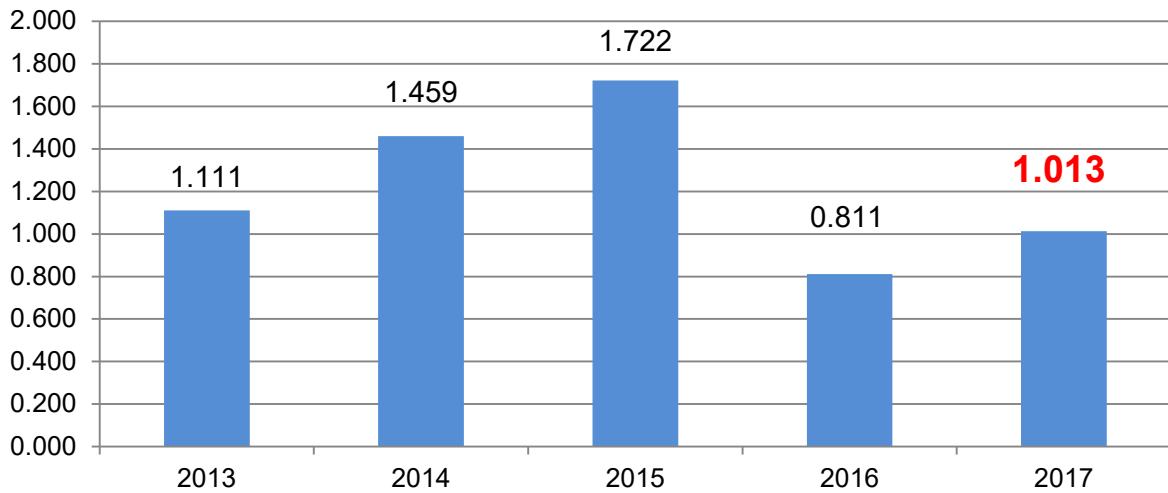
## Performance Metrics

Submissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 726 manuscript submissions in 2018<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 685 manuscript submissions in 2017</li></ul></li><li>• 10% acceptance rate in 2018<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 12% acceptance rate in 2017</li></ul></li><li>• 103 days average time to first decision in 2018<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 58 days average time to first decision in 2017</li></ul></li></ul>
Content Published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 issues consisting of 765 pages published in 2018<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 705 pages published in 2017</li></ul></li><li>• 24 days average from transmittal to Production to OnlineFirst publication in 2018<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 30 days average from transmittal to Production to OnlineFirst publication in 2017</li></ul></li></ul>
Circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8,530 total circulation in 2018<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 8,475 total circulation in 2017</li></ul></li></ul>
Online Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 93 908 full-text downloads in 2018<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 104,065 full-text downloads in 2017</li></ul></li></ul>
Impact Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2017 Impact Factor is 1.013<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 2016 Impact Factor was 0.811</li></ul></li><li>• 2017 5-year Impact Factor is 1.120</li><li>• Ranking in Public, Environmental &amp; Occupational Health (SCI): 154/180</li><li>• Ranking in Public, Environmental &amp; Occupational Health (SSCI): 124/156</li></ul>
Commercial Sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2017 commercial sales revenue of \$45,770</li></ul>

## 1. Impact Factor

APJPH attained an impact factor of 1.013 for year 2017, an increase from 0.811 in 2016. This put APJPH at 154 out of 180 in Public, Environment & Occupational Health (Science) category and 124 out of the 156 journals in the Public, Environmental & Occupational Health (Social Science).

**Impact Factor by Year**



	2015	2016	2017	Percent Change 2016-2017
Impact Factor	1.722	0.811	<b>1.013</b>	25%*
Ranking in Public, Environmental & Occupational Health (SCI)	80/173	157/176	<b>154/180</b>	N/A
Ranking in Public, Environmental & Occupational Health (SSCI)	54/153	132/157	<b>124/156</b>	N/A
Cites to Recent Items	217	344	<b>451</b>	31%
Citable Items	126	424	<b>445</b>	5%
Total Citations	1,411	1,189	<b>1284</b>	8%
Immediacy Index	0.313	0.444	<b>0.652</b>	47%
5-Year Impact Factor	2.087	1.138	<b>1.120</b>	-2%

## 2. Manuscript Update

### 2.1 Total Submissions and Acceptance Rate

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	1,363	1,068	742	813	791	<b>838</b>
<b>Original</b>	1,145	958	637	693	685	<b>726</b>
<b>Accept</b>	131	69	73	79	81	<b>62</b>
<b>Reject</b>	1,051	839	555	607	574	<b>537</b>
<b>Accept Ratio</b>	11%	8%	12%	12%	12%	<b>10%</b>

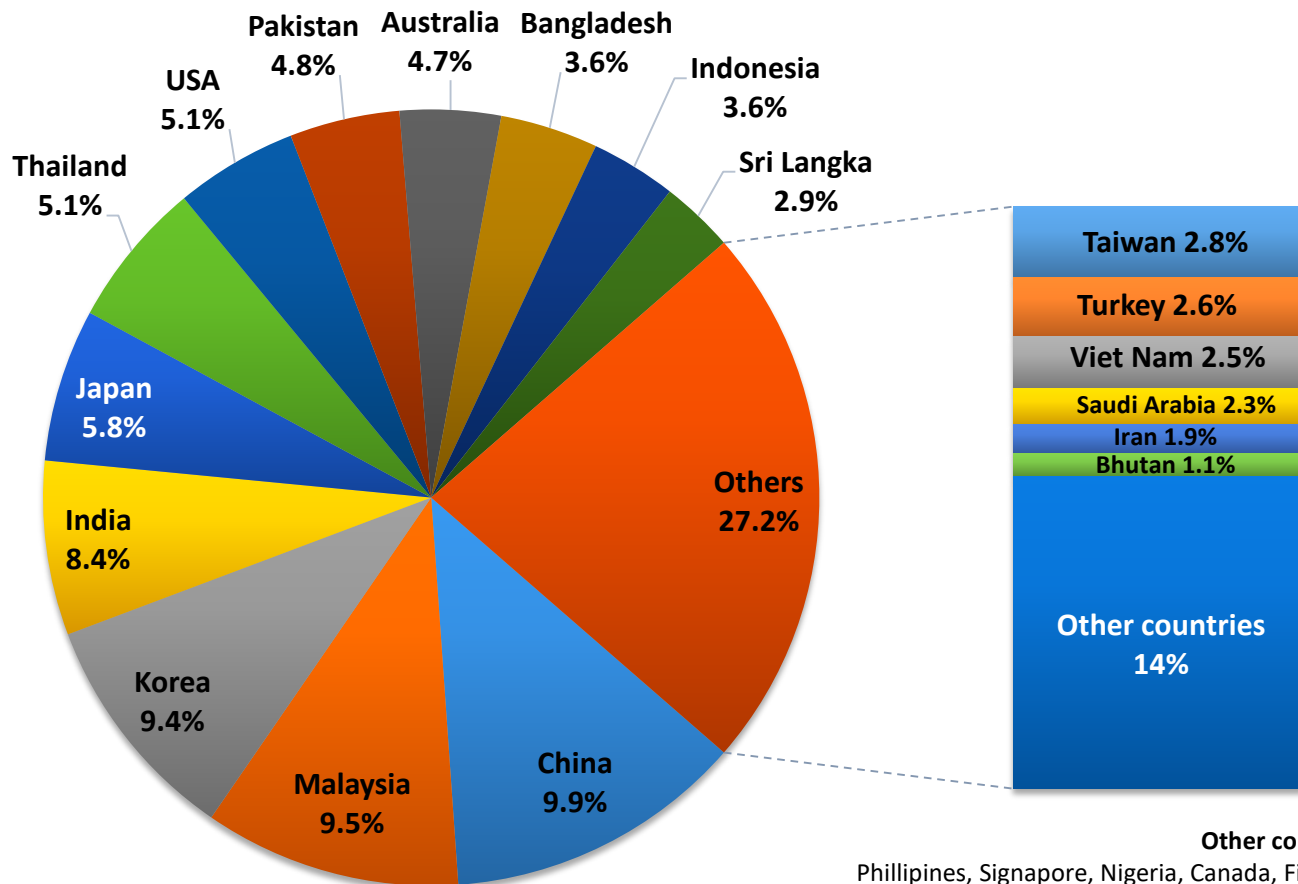
Total and original submission counts are based on the date manuscripts were submitted.

Counts for acceptances, rejections, and acceptance ratios are based on the date the decision is made, not the date the manuscript was submitted. Acceptance rate is based on manuscripts that have received final decisions of accept or reject (does not include revisions).

In 2018, we have received a total of 726 original submissions and the monthly submission is as per the table above.

Month	2016	2017	2018
January	57	38	<b>59</b>
February	56	83	<b>74</b>
March	72	64	<b>83</b>
April	52	44	<b>70</b>
May	61	72	<b>58</b>
June	59	39	<b>20</b>
July	66	66	<b>53</b>
August	61	48	<b>85</b>
September	32	51	<b>55</b>
October	59	58	<b>77</b>
November	61	47	<b>40</b>
December	57	75	<b>52</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>726</b>

## Manuscript Submission by Country



**Other countries (14%):**  
 Phillipines, Signapore, Nigeria, Canada, Fiji, Hong Kong, Belgium, Brunei, Egypt, Iraq, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, UK and Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ethiopia, Jordan, Myanmar, Cambodia, Germany, New Caledonia, South Africa, Switzerland, Albania, Botswana, Brazil, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Israel, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mauritius, Spain, Sweden, and Timor-Leste

## 2.2 Rejection of Manuscripts: January to December 2018

Initial screening of the submitted articles is done by the Editorial Board based on the appropriateness and relevance of the papers. Only quality papers are selected and sent for peer reviewing as this has an effect on the impact factor of the Journal.

As shown in the table below, last year (from Jan to Dec 2018) we received a total of 726 original submissions. The total number of papers rejected is 537. Details are shown in the table below. The **Rejection Rate** calculated is **74.0 %**.

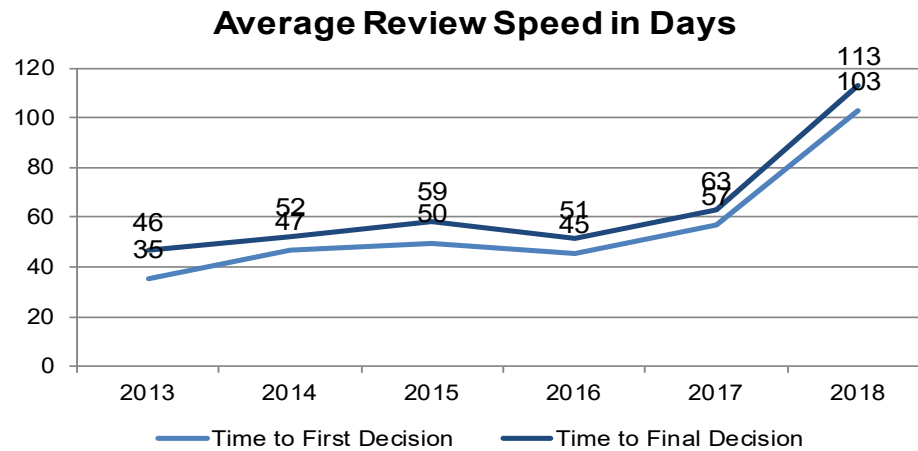
### Rejection Rate for 2018 (1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018)

Total number of manuscripts received	726
Manuscripts rejected due to inappropriateness	198
Manuscripts rejected after peer reviewing	339
Total number of manuscripts rejected	537
% Rejection Rate	$\frac{537}{726} \times 100 = \mathbf{74.0\%}$

## 2.3 Average Time to First Decision

**Time to First Decision** is defined as all original submissions that received their first decision within each year, regardless of when the manuscripts were submitted. Revisions are not included.

**Time to Final Decision** is defined as all submissions including revisions that receive a final accept or reject decision within each year, regardless of when the manuscripts were submitted.

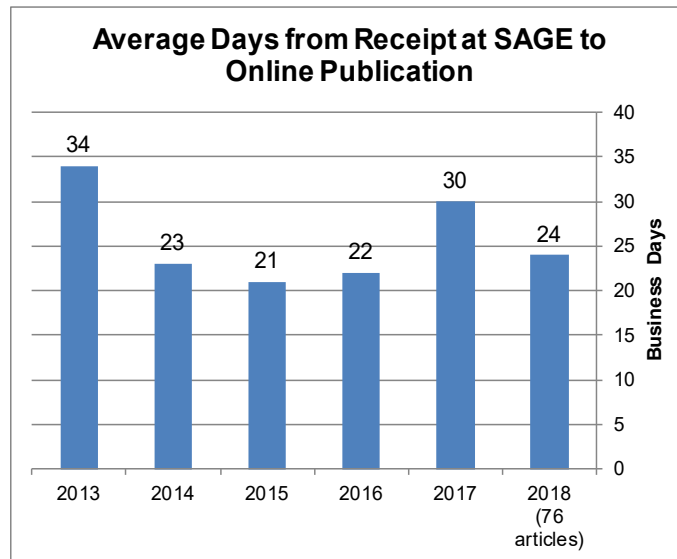


\*There was a substantial increase in the time to First and Final Decision in 2018. This was mainly contributed by the two supplement issues. Delay in the appointment of Guest Editors by the sponsor institutions had increased the average manuscript processing time in 2018.

\*The number of days taken for the decisions are expected to reduce to ideal (35 days for First Decision and 60 days for Final Decision) for the regular issues.

## 2.4 Average Days from Receipt at SAGE to Online Publication

The below graph shows the average number of days a manuscript spends in SAGE Production, beginning when the manuscript is exported from SAGE Track and ending when the manuscript is published OnlineFirst.



\*The average days from receipt at SAGE to OnlineFirst reduced to 24 days.

\*As of January 28, 2019, Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health has 12 articles in its OnlineFirst queue, representing about 1 issue of content.

The following table shows the top ten journal articles from 2015 and 2016 that were cited the most in 2017.

Top 10 Cited Articles in 2017 from Publication Years 2015 – 2016				
Title	Authors	Year	Volume	Issue
The Long-Term Public Health Benefits of Breastfeeding	Binns, Colin; Lee, MiKyung; Low, Wah Yun	2016	28	1
Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Health of University Students in Eight Provinces of Vietnam	Quynh Anh Tran; Dunne, Michael P.; Thang Van Vo; Ngoc Hoat Luu	2015	27	8
Increasing Incidence of Thyroid Cancer in Shanghai, China, 1983-2007	Wang, Youxin; Wang, Wei	2015	27	2
Factorial Validity and Reliability of the Malaysian Simplified Chinese Version of Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS-SCV) Among a Group of University Students	Guan, Ng Chong; Seng, Loh Huai; Ann, Anne Yee Hway; Hui, Koh Ong	2015	27	2
Prevalence of and Risk Factors for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Vietnam: A Systematic Review	Nguyen, Chung T.; Ngoc Minh Pham; Lee, Andy H.; Binns, Colin W.	2015	27	6
Socioeconomic Inequities in Health Care Utilization in China	Zhang, Xin; Wu, Qunhong; Shao, Yongxiang; Fu, Wenqi; Liu, Guoxiang; Coyte, Peter C.	2015	27	4
Human Leptospirosis in Malaysia: Reviewing the Challenges After 8 Decades (1925-2012)	Benacer, Douadi; Thong, Kwai Lin; Bin Verasahib, Khebir; Galloway, Renee L.; Hartskeerl, Rudy A.; Lewis, John W.; Zain, Siti Nursheena Mohd	2016	28	4
Health Literacy in Taiwan: A Population-Based Study	Van Tuyen Duong; Lin, I-Feng; Sorensen, Kristine; Pelikan, Juergen M.; Van den Broucke, Stephan; Lin, Ying-Chin; Chang, Peter Wushou	2015	27	8
Exercise Is Medicine: Curbing the Burden of Chronic Disease and Physical Inactivity	Coombes, Jeff S.; Law, Jen; Lancashire, Bill; Fassett, Robert G.	2015	27	2
Lung Cancer Mortality Among Women in Xuan Wei, China: A Comparison of Spatial Clustering Detection Methods	Lin, Hualiang; Ning, Bofu; Li, Jihua; Ho, Suzanne C.; Huss, Anke; Vermeulen, Roel; Tian, Linwei	2015	27	2

## 2.5 Supplement Issues

In 2018, we have started working on two Supplement Issues (details below), in addition to 8 regular issues published in: Jan, March, April, May, July, September, October, and November. The supplement issues will be published in 2019.

Name of Supplement	Tentative Publication Date	Sponsors	Status
National E-cigarette Survey 2016	September 2019	International Islamic University Malaysia	Work in progress
National Health and Morbidity Survey: Adolescent Health	October 2019	National Institute of Public Health, Malaysia	Work in progress

## 3. Circulation and Readership

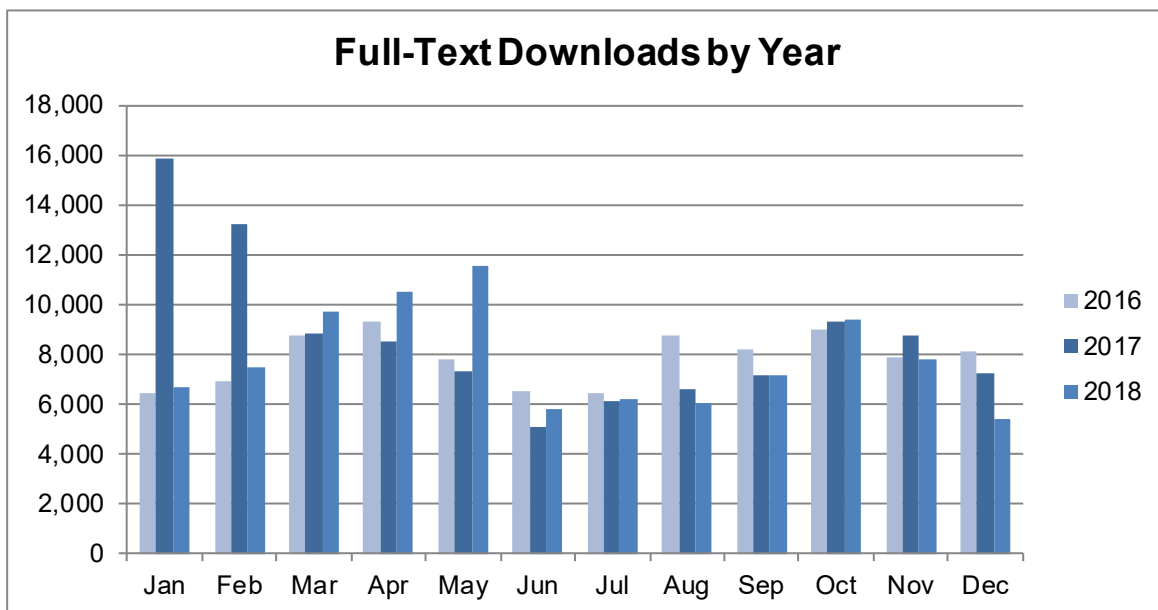
Average Number of Subscriptions by Type 2015 – 2018					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	Renewal Rate 2017-2018
Individuals	0	1	1	1	100%
Members	39	39	40	40	100%
Institutions (Direct), Traditional	46	40	44	46	105%
Institutions (Direct), Migrated	5	5	6	6	100%
Institutions (Direct), Total	51	45	50	52	104%
Site License	7	8	6	8	133%
Package	3,071	3,138	3,155	3,206	102%
Developing World	5,047	5,223	5,223	5,223	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,215</b>	<b>8,454</b>	<b>8,475</b>	<b>8,530</b>	<b>101%</b>

## 4. Online Usage and Downloads

Full-Text Downloads			
	2016	2017	2018
January	6,480	15,893	6,717
February	6,943	13,236	7,500
March	8,770	8,814	9,704
April	9,328	8,504	10,510
May	7,833	7,357	11,591
June	6,532	5,104	5,776
July	6,456	6,123	6,218
August	8,801	6,572	6,084
September	8,210	7,180	7,164
October	9,026	9,293	9,436
November	7,877	8,743	7,770
December	8,097	7,246	5,438
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,353</b>	<b>104,065</b>	<b>93,908</b>

\*Full-text downloads include both HTML and PDF article usage

Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health has 93,908 full-text downloads in 2018 (through the end of December). This is a 9.8% decrease over 104,065 full-text downloads through the end of December 2017.



The following table shows the ten articles that were downloaded the most from January through December 2018 on the SAGE Journals platform.

Top 10 Most Downloaded Articles	
Total Downloads	Article
5,406	Colin Binns, MiKyung Lee, Wah Yun Low <b>The Long-Term Public Health Benefits of Breastfeeding</b> Volume 28, Issue 1: 2016
1,268	Masaharu Maeda, Misari Oe <b>Mental Health Consequences and Social Issues After the Fukushima Disaster</b> Volume 29, Issue 2_suppl: 2017
1,153	Wah Yun Low, Colin Binns <b>Gender Issues and Public Health</b> Volume 28, Issue 2: 2016
882	Catherine So-Kum Tang, Yee Woen Koh, YiQun Gan <b>Addiction to Internet Use, Online Gaming, and Online Social Networking Among Young Adults in China, Singapore, and the United States</b> Volume 29, Issue 8: 2017
723	Priyanwada Amarasekara, Angela de Silva, Hasintha Swarnamali, Upul Senarath, Prasad Katulanda <b>Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices on Lifestyle and Cardiovascular Risk Factors Among Metabolic Syndrome Patients in an Urban Tertiary Care Institute in Sri Lanka</b> Volume 28, Issue 1_suppl: 2016
680	Colin Binns, Wah-Yun Low <b>What Is Public Health?</b> Volume 27, Issue 1: 2015
664	Colin Binns, Wah Yun Low <b>Nobel Prizes, Nudge Theory, and Public Health</b> Volume 29, Issue 8: 2017
653	Michio Murakami, Masaharu Tsubokura <b>Evaluating Risk Communication After the Fukushima Disaster Based on Nudge Theory</b> Volume 29, Issue 2_suppl: 2017
628	Tetsuo Ishikawa <b>Radiation Doses and Associated Risk From the Fukushima Nuclear Accident A Review of Recent Publications</b> Volume 29, Issue 2_suppl: 2017
605	Bindu Karki, Guenter Kittel, Ignatius Bolokon, Trevor Duke <b>Active Community-Based Case Finding for Tuberculosis With Limited Resources Estimating Prevalence in a Remote Area of Papua New Guinea</b> Volume 29, Issue 1: 2017

## 5. Almetric

Alternative metrics are becoming increasingly important in scholarly publishing. An Altmetric score measures online mentions of an individual academic journal article across social media, news outlets, blog sites and reference sites. The score is a helpful measure of online engagement and visibility, but it is not directly linked to citations or usage. The score is derived from an automated algorithm, and represents a weighted count of research outputs reflecting the relative reach of each type of source.

### Top Altmetric Scores for APJPH

Total Altmetric Score	Article Title
55	A Mock Randomized Controlled Trial With Audience Response Technology for Teaching and Learning Epidemiology
39	Psychosocial Issues Related to Thyroid Examination After a Radiation Disaster
14	Impact of Climate Conditions on Occupational Health and Related Economic Losses: A New Feature of Global and Urban Health in the Context of Climate Change
11	Evaluating Risk Communication After the Fukushima Disaster Based on Nudge Theory
11	Hazard Ratio and Repeat Injury for Dementia in Patients With and Without a History of Traumatic Brain Injury: A Population-Based Secondary Data Analysis in Taiwan

## 6. Editor's Choice

Following the meeting with SAGE's associate in APACPH 2017, the editorial team has decided to introduce Editor's Choice articles. One article will be selected from each issue beginning January 2017 and will be featured as the Editor's Choice article. These articles will be given free access for a limited time (1 month). Links to the free access will be shared in our social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter), university email loops, and notifications will be sent to the authors (to share the free access with their contacts).

The idea of an Editor's Choice is to make a personalised reading recommendation based on what the editor feels is an important topic apart from the latest articles, most read articles, and most cited articles which are highlighted in the journal's website.

The articles selected to be featured as Editor's Choice for 2018 were:

<b>2018 Issues</b>	<b>Title of Articles</b>
January	Mental Health Indicators of Suicide in Cambodian Women
March	Inconsistent Condom Use Among Male University Students in Northern Thailand
April	Modelling the Impact of Different Tuberculosis Control Interventions on the Prevalence of Tuberculosis in an Overcrowded Prison
July	Challenges and Patterns of Seeking Primary Health Care in Slums of Karachi: A Disaster Lurking in Urban Shadow
September	Adverse Childhood Experiences, Mental Health, and Risk Behaviors Among Men in the Solomon Islands

Currently, the Editor and Editorial Assistant have been creating write-up, infographics, and illustrations to introduce the Editor's Choice articles on these platforms. The future plan is to come up with a guideline to enable authors of the selected articles to come up with own write-ups. The guideline will outline the following criteria: the mode (write-up/ podcast/ videos); length/ duration and etc.

## 7. Social Media

Following the meeting with SAGE’s associate in APACPH 2017, APJPH also has ventured into social media, creating accounts in two platforms: Facebook and Twitter in September 2017 to reach out to readers and disseminate information quickly. These platforms are also being used to share the Editor’s Choice articles. The Facebook link and Twitter handle are as follows:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/apjph/>

Twitter: @APJPH\_



Figure 1: Screenshot of APJPH Facebook page



Figure 2: Screenshot of APJPH Twitter account

## 8. APJPH access for APACPH members

Members of APACPH institutions have been asking about access to APJPH. SAGE has provided the instructions below. This is the process that is in place for all APACPH members, whether they are individuals who are APACPH members in their own right, or individuals who are trying to access the journal because their institution is an APACPH member. Both individual and institutional APACPH members would access the journal in this way. Since the online platform changed, each member needs to register and create a personal account with SAGE Journals.

APACPH Activation Instructions:

1. Please register your personal email with SAGE Journals at the following link:  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/action/registration>
2. Once registered please click the below Token URL link to gain access to the journal (one-time process):  
  
Token URL: <http://journals.sagepub.com/token/FV9bPI7XVYWuUZuAjErR/Asia-Pacific+Academic+Consortium+for+Public+Health>
3. Going forward please sign in with e-mail and password here  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/>. Once signed please “Search all SAGE Journals” with Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health which will then give you full access.

## 9. Open Access Publishing: SAGE Choice

SAGE offers authors of primary research articles the option to make them freely available upon publication in any SAGE journal. The SAGE Choice publishing option enables authors to comply with funding body requirements, where publishing research papers Open Access is a stipulation of funding, such as in the case for the NIH/Wellcome Trust.

Starting in the calendar year 2018, the SAGE Choice price for APJPH has been reduced from the \$3,000 standard price, to \$1,500.

## **10. Other matters: Editorial Office Activities**

### **10.1 Kuala Lumpur Editorial Committee Meeting**

The Kuala Lumpur Editorial Committee meeting have been scheduled to take place once every 3-4 months, in addition to the annual APJPH Editorial Board Meeting to discuss and decide on the arising matters.

A meeting was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The key points discussed are as below:

- Appointment of new Associate Editors to help with the journal matters as discussed in the 2018 Editorial Board Meeting. Professor Emily Chan Yin Yang (Chinese University of Hong Kong) and Associate Professor Hazreen Absul Majid (University of Malaya, Malaysia) have joined the editorial board. Briefing and online training were provided to them.
- Plagiarism check for the submitted manuscripts because APJPH received a few duplicate submission (the same and/or similar paper was published in another journal).
- Getting reviewers to review manuscripts remain the biggest challenge. Need to update the database of reviewers. This include updating the reviewers' contact details, adding potential reviewers for the various themes under the scope of public health, and removing the inactive reviewers.
- The importance of publishing supplement issue need to be revisited. Some Associate Editors felt supplement issues may potentially cause 'Conflict of Interest' despite rigorous review process.

The next meeting will be held in the third week of April 2019.

## **10.2 Workshops and webinars**

APJPH editorial members are continuously keeping abreast with the updates in the actively progressing journal publishing field. The Editors and the Editorial Assistants in the past had attended workshops/ talks on various topics (e.g. Web of Science, Journal Citation Report, and Publication Ethics).

In 2019, the Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Assistants have attended these workshop and webinar. Details of the sessions are as below:

- Publons Academy Workshop by Clarivate Analytics on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at University of Malaya, Malaysia
- Publons – SAGE: Editor Webminar by Clarivate Analytics on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Publons is being widely recognised as a platform for the reviewers to update their peer review activities. This platform benefits the journal as a source of potential reviewers for APJPH manuscripts. Some important features of Publons includes the Peer Review Training modules.

## **10.3 Additional requirement for manuscript submission**

APJPH Deputy Editor-in-Chief had suggested two sections to be included in all future manuscripts and discussion is ongoing with the publisher, SAGE on possibility to implement them. The two sections are:

- What is already known
- What this paper adds