



Editorial

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Over a year ago, I took over the role as Managing Editor for *Progress in Additive Manufacturing*. We have seen a positive increase in receiving high-quality manuscripts. As Managing Editor, one of my key roles is to ensure that we continue to attract submissions and ensuring that the manuscripts in our system are properly vetted by a minimum of two reviewers in a blinded review process. A blind review means that the identities of authors and reviewers are concealed from each other throughout the review process. It is, thus, important that authors should not indicate their affiliation within the manuscript and papers published by the authors should be cited anonymously. In addition, any funding sources and acknowledgments have to be removed. The “Instructions for Authors” link in our PIAM webpage explains the Ethical Responsibilities of Authors, and also highlights the golden rules of good scientific practice in terms of publishing standards. Members of the Editorial Board have also been asked to familiarize themselves with the Springer Nature’s Publishing Code of Conduct that sets out the specific ethical standards and expectations associated with editorial tasks. Adhering to the Publishing Code of Conduct ensures that all journals published by Springer Nature have the highest standards of editorial practice.

A major improvement to reduce the peer-reviewed time was the implementation of classification of manuscripts in which, during the submission process, the Editorial Manager system requires authors to indicate the scope of their paper based on at least ten different classifications from the field of additive manufacturing, ranging from terminology, methods and processes, feedstock materials, finished parts and test methods, data, design, equipment, applications, environment, health and safety, training, education, and standards. In addition to manuscript classifications, reviewers have been also asked to classify themselves according to their area of expertise. This ensures that the review process

will be able to more accurately match the professional background of the reviewers according to the scope of the paper. To further reduce the peer-reviewed time, auto reminders have now been set up, so that our handling editors and reviewers have a time limit to complete their review.

Taking a step further, we have streamlined the type of articles within PIAM to include research papers, technical papers, short communications, and review articles. Research papers are full reports of data from research that contain the methodology, results, and discussions, and are between 2000 and 4000 words. Technical papers describe and evaluate equipment, products, processes, or services involving experimental work, and are between 2000 and 4000 words. Short communication papers are usually case studies and they communicate brief reports of data from original research with a strict limit of two pages or about 1000 words. Finally, Review articles provide a comprehensive summary of research on a certain topic, and are between 2000 and 5000 words. It is important that authors should understand the type of the articles that we have and to communicate their work to readers.

The new Editorial Manager Version 15.0 has an improved author submission interface to make the manuscript submission process quicker and easier for authors. In addition, the Editorial Manager site has been upgraded to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The aim of GDPR is to protect all EU citizens from privacy and data breaches in today’s data-driven world, by harmonizing data privacy laws across Europe; protecting and empowering all EU citizens data privacy; reshaping the way organizations across the region approach data privacy. To accommodate these requirements, Editorial Manager 15.0 introduces GDPR compliant features and also requires users to acknowledge the privacy policies of the Editorial Manager site during the log-in process. The new interface collects the same data as earlier versions of Editorial Manager, but the order of the submission steps has changed. In addition, Editorial Manager can extract metadata directly from the manuscript during the upload process to automatically populate specific submission data fields such as the title, abstract,

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and authors, so that less time is spent entering information manually. The seven core submission steps of article-type selection, attaching files, general information, review preferences, additional information, comments, and manuscript data are required for Editorial Manager.

Most of these changes implemented for Progress in Additive Manufacturing have been developed by working closely with authors and readers. There are further enhancements planned and it is my wish that the journal will grow from strength to strength. I wish all authors and readers a very successful 2019.

Eujin Pei
Managing Editor
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