



Editorial

Journal summary from Editor in Chief

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Dear Editorial Board Members and Readers:

AIMS Geosciences continues to publish original, high quality research contributions on a wide range of topics including the dynamics and history of the solid earth, the atmosphere, the land surface, the cryosphere and the oceans, as well as related issues of planetary and space sciences.

Submissions are also encouraged on research carried out addressing geosciences questions, such as hydrology, biogeochemical cycling, physical geography, human geography, geoethics, Earth and space climate system and integrated disaster risk. AIMS Geosciences also recognizes that comparative analysis between the Earth and other solar system bodies from Sun to the outer heliosphere is a key element in our current understanding of the Earth and Sun-Earth system, such as climate/space weather. Space weather became one of the strategic, high-priority research and innovation areas of many research councils and funding bodies. Contributions on all these topics as well as methodological articles of relevance to the geosciences community (including e.g. remote sensing, field campaigns and modeling) are also encouraged. This relatively new journal, with its rising profile both in terms of high-quality research papers, topical volumes and supplementary review articles aims to respond and provide a reflection and to the actual scientific and societal challenges using geo/helio-scientific studies.

2020 has seen a number of important changes. First, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected all, whether researcher, referee or editorial board member. However, the hurdles were taken well and all parties adopted to the challenges in order to continue to thrive.

We are proud to report the rise in submission as compared to the previous year, in spite of the challenges. While the submission rate has increased, the rejection rate has sharply risen, reflecting

the applied firm qualities by the referees and the journal itself. Therefore the publication rate has dropped, indicating the increasing quality rigors applied to the submitted papers. We are also pleased to report that the online publication time from the submission is about four months that is better or about the same as for similar journals in the field.

AIMS Geosciences has become truly international, as evidenced by a number of indicators, including e.g. the country origin of the authors, our Associate Editors and the members of the Editorial Board. The list of AEs constitutes of 14 members, while the EB is made of about 80 members covering the needed expertise in the wide area of geo/helio-sciences.

In 2020 AIMS Geosciences has published over 2 dozens of research articles, resulting in about 24000 downloads, that is an impressive download/html read rate per article. The average citation rate of papers has almost doubled. About 10 of these papers are accountable for about 2/3 rd of the downloads, indicating their impressive impact on the field. The papers published from Issue 5, 2020 have still not been indexed in Web of Science, providing further visibility and impact. There was also an excellent topical issues (on *Sustainability and Risk Perception: multidisciplinary approaches* with an impressive 9 research articles). Further, a review article was also published. AIMS Geosciences highly welcomes proposals on special issues and volumes.

Overall, in 2020 our journal has continued to develop, as evidenced by the increase of quality of the submissions and published papers. Beside AIMS Geosciences being indexed in the Web of Science (ESCI), there is now also further recognition in additional science metrics, including e.g. ANVUR, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

Last but not least, I would like to express my warmest thanks to all Referees, Associate Editors, members of the Editorial Board and members of Editorial Office for their efforts commitments and dedication without which we could not further improve the quality, impact and recognition of AIMS Geosciences in the coming years.

Prof Robertus Erdélyi
Editor in Chief, AIMS Geosciences



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