Jean-François Mangin

From *Neuroimage* to *Imaging Neuroscience*
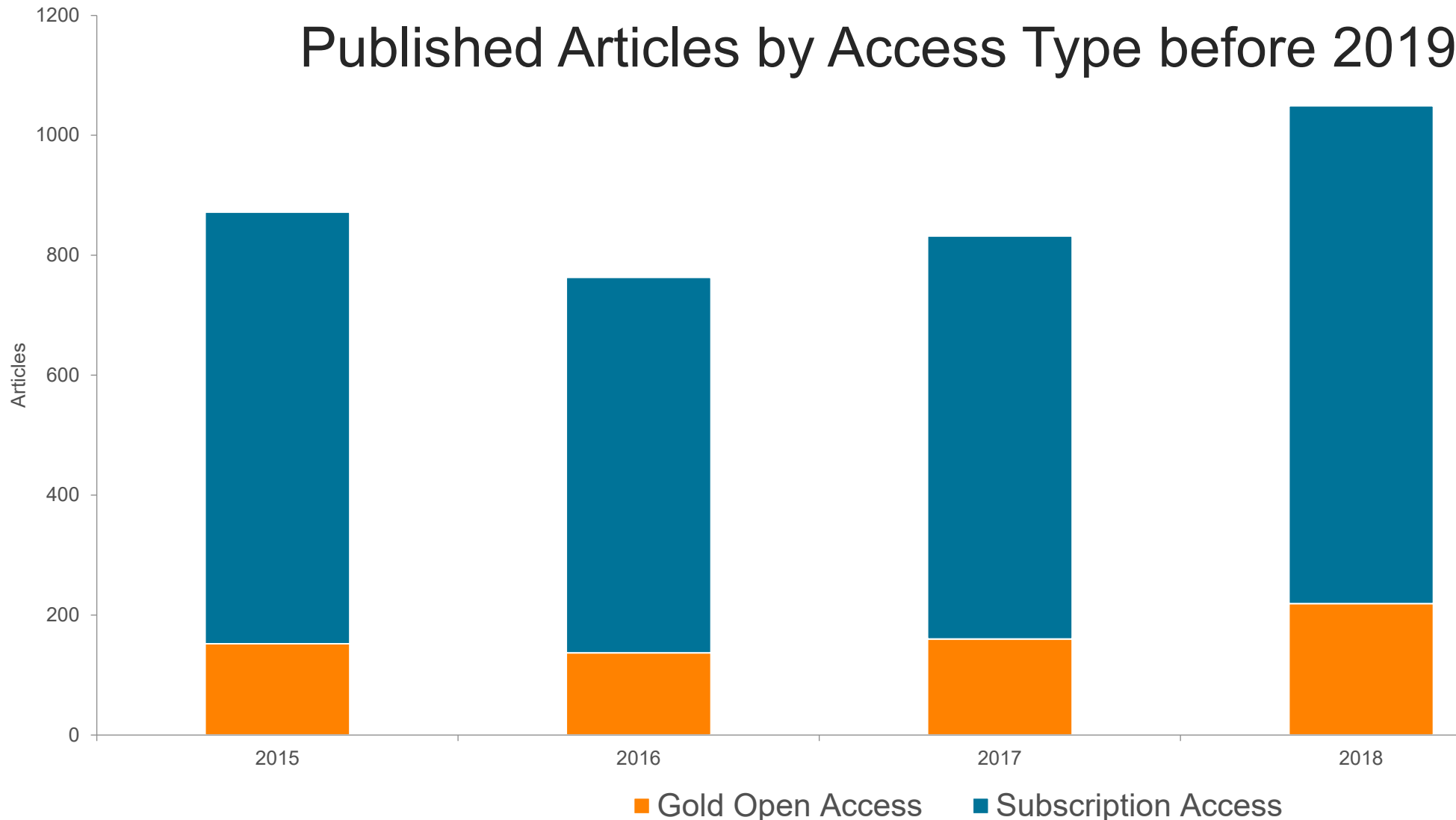
Before the era of Open Access, it used to be that money was primarily made by charging people to read articles rather than to publish them…

Neuroimage

Published Articles by Access Type before 2019

History of Article Processing Charge (APC)

NeuroImage became fully Open Access in January 2020, with an APC of $3,000 USD.

In the years just before this, OA was optional and the OA fee was the same ($3,000). Non-OA papers were free to publish.
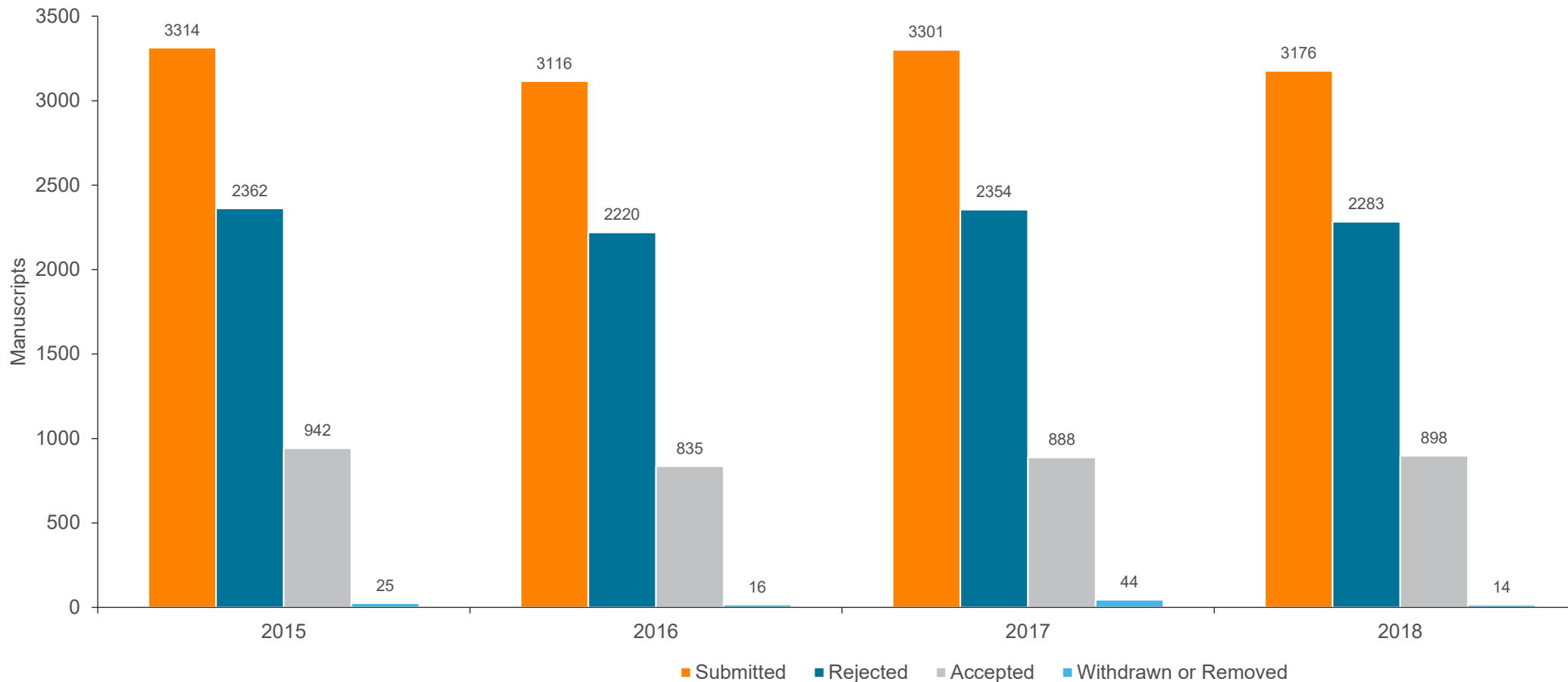
By August 2020, the APC had been raised by Elsevier to $3,300.
In 2021, the APC was raised to $3,450.

Submitted Manuscripts & Editorial Outcomes

About 3 millions $ of APC…
(2000 $ a year stipend for editor, nothing for reviewers)

A short story (Courtesy of Steve Smith, the Editor in Chief)

The journal changed to being fully Open Access at the start of 2020. At that point the main focus for the editors was in managing to achieve that change, to full OA.

It became increasingly clear to the editors that the **high level of profit implied by this APC is unethical and unsustainable**. It is prohibitive to many researchers in less-well-funded countries and to researchers with certain funding sources.

A year before we resigned, the editors started serious discussions with Elsevier, asking them to reduce the APC to a more reasonable level - under $2000.

By March 2023 it was clear that they were not going to agree to our request, and so we took the very difficult decision, all editors together, to let Elsevier know that we would all resign and start a new journal if the APC could not be reduced.

Switching to MIT press

Several options had been suggested to us very early, including some organisations who say they are non-profit but which have APCs similar to, or even higher than, NeuroImage, so they did not make sense as a way to go - **not all non-profit organisations have reasonable APCs**.

Given that our requirements were for a fully open access journal with reasonable APC, that narrowed the field considerably. Two colleagues who had themselves started new journals with the non-profit MIT Press told us about their very positive experiences. **It has been a delight working with MIT Press**, and we've made terrific progress in a short period of time.

We were delighted by the positive and huge response to our announcement on twitter, with lots of people wanting to submit to Imaging Neuroscience, and asking about timeline. **We were fully open by mid-July, and before that had opened up an interim paper-handling website** in order to start the review process immediately for new submissions, and for authors wanting to transfer papers already under review at NeuroImage over to consideration at Imaging Neuroscience.

Strong consensus

While the ultimate decision came about after many, many discussions, we were happy that there was very strong agreement. Having said that, we all also had **complex feelings about this decision**. As described in our Announcement, **we really didn't want to see NeuroImage disappear** - it had been the top journal in our field. The editors had dedicated years to making NeuroImage the leading journal, with most of us publishing our own best work there. But, at the end of the day, change is needed - too many publishers are making too much, largely unearned, profit - from research and writing that they did almost nothing to help produce.

Targetting "Diamond" Open Access (zero publishing fee)

We are looking for sponsors to reduce this cost to scientists - please get in touch!

 The fee are waived for low- or middle-income countries.

Impact factor

People want to publish in established journals with known reputations and high "impact factors". It's hard to break that cycle, because you have to start from scratch with a new journal, building up a reputation - and it takes a few years for a new journal to be given an impact factor.

By taking the entire set of 43 academic editors across to start the new journal, with the same aims and scope, we are taking the reputation with us. Indeed, more generally - enough is enough - academics from all disciplines can make such changes with their own journals.

The future of Neuroimage

Elsevier has assigned internal staff to handle new submissions - though it looks like these are people without direct experience of this journal's research areas.

From the strength of the positive response we have seen to our move (both inside our field and in other academic fields), it does seem quite likely that NeuroImage will not be able to continue as a major journal. Very few researchers in our field would agree to become new "proper" editors at this point.

How are things going following the move

Imaging Neuroscience. The full opening happened on schedule in mid-July - MIT Press were amazing at getting things ready so quickly. We already have over 440 submissions! Obviously it takes some time for new submissions to go through the review and revision process, but we have already published over 50 papers. The quality of submitted papers is fantastic overall - on average it is higher than we had previously been seeing at NeuroImage.

At NeuroImage, We suspect that the number of submissions has fallen greatly. Even in these early days, the number of papers being published are significantly lower than in the previous year.

Imaging neuroscience is there for a long time

Imaging Neuroscience

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Volume 1

2023

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Imaging Neuroscience is an open access non-profit journal. The scope of the journal includes research that significantly contributes to the understanding of brain function, structure, and behavior through the application of neuroimaging, as well as major advances in brain imaging methods. The focus is on imaging of the brain and spinal cord, in humans and other species, and includes neurophysiological and neuromodulation methods.

Read more

Volume One Call for Papers

The MIT Press launches open access journal *Imaging Neuroscience*

As of Summer 2023, the MIT Press has launched *Imaging Neuroscience*. Intended to become the premier journal in the field of neuroimaging, the journal's Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Stephen M. Smith, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Oxford University. He is joined by the entire former editorial team from the journals *Neuroimage* and *Neuroimage: Reports* — a departure that has been hailed by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* as a "high-profile move... in the long-unfolding battle over who pays and who benefits in the academic-

Submit to Imaging Neuroscience

Our full submission platform is now ready for submission of new papers at http://www.editorialmanager.com/imag. (For papers that had already been submitted to our interim Janeway platform, please continue to use that [at https://janeway.imaging-neuroscience.org/] until the review process for those papers is concluded.)

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