

## Editorial and Policy Changes for 2015

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The *Journal of Bacteriology* was the first journal published by the ASM nearly 100 years ago. It remains the second most highly cited journal in the field of microbiology, despite the appearance of many new competitors. In order to stay ahead of the competition, the Editors and I have implemented a number of changes. Last June, we changed the Scope statement:

**“The *Journal of Bacteriology* (JB) publishes research articles that probe fundamental processes in bacteria, archaea and their viruses, and the molecular mechanisms by which they interact with each other and with their hosts and their environments.”**

The new statement more accurately and more concisely reflects the current state of the field and the areas of research reported in the journal.

In response to a survey conducted by the Journals Program, we also implemented a page charge holiday. It is hoped that this action will draw increased attention to the journal and to help our members in these times of fiscal constraint.

In 2015 we will implement changes to call attention to the excellent papers we publish and help explain the work reported to a broader audience. Articles that the Editors think merit special attention will be recognized by a short Spotlight, which will be written by the authors. We will also continue to publish Commentaries, which are written by experts in the field to provide greater insight into or a different perspective of the advances made in the highlighted paper.

Also, we will ask all authors to provide a structured summary with two sections: “Abstract” and “Importance.” The Abstract section should be 250 words or fewer concisely summarizing the basic content of the paper without extensive experimental details. The Importance section should be 120 words or fewer describing the significance of the work at a level understandable to microbiologists outside the specialty. These new summaries will begin to appear in the journal in early spring. Finally, as a step toward making the review process more transparent, the name of the Editor will appear on each newly accepted article.

As Editor in Chief, my most important job is to maintain the high standards of the journal, and the first step in this process is to recruit outstanding Editors who are top scientists in the field. Last year Charles Moran reached the end of this term and retired, and he was replaced by Tina Henkin. I’m extremely proud of this prestigious group. It includes fellows of the American Academy of Microbiology, fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and members of the National Academy of Sciences.

Last year the Editors, the Editorial Board, and many *ad hoc* reviewers (listed in volume 196, no. 24, 2014) provided helpful, high-quality reviews with an average time to first decision of only 27 days. I want to take this opportunity to recognize our top performing Editorial Board members.

Birgit E. Alber, Ohio State University

Dean C. Crick, Colorado State University  
Sean Crosson, University of Chicago  
Michael J. Federle, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Mark Gomelsky, University of Wyoming  
Susan Gottesman, National Cancer Institute, NIH  
David R. Hendrixson, University of Texas Southwestern  
Medical Center

Daniel B. Kearns, Indiana University  
Kenneth N. Kreuzer, Duke University Medical Center  
Michiko M. Nakano, Oregon Health & Science University  
David L. Popham, Virginia Tech  
Stephen Spiro, University of Texas at Dallas  
Jörg Stülke, University of Göttingen  
Chris Whitfield, University of Guelph  
Malcolm E. Winkler, Indiana University at Bloomington  
Timothy L. Yahr, University of Iowa  
Peter Zuber, Oregon Health & Science University

These Board members stood out based on two very important criteria. First, during the last 12 months, these scientists reviewed at least 9 manuscripts, and second, they did so with an average turnaround time of 16 days or less. Heartfelt thanks to all of you.

This year, 17 new scientists were appointed to the Editorial Board to replace retiring members.

Craig Ellermeier, University of Iowa  
Mario Feldman, University of Alberta  
Maria Hadjifrangiskou, Vanderbilt University School of  
Medicine

**Patrick Hallenbeck, University of Montreal**

Tâm Mignot, CNRS  
Tohru Minamino, Osaka University  
Andreas Peschel, University of Tübingen  
Manjula Reddy, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology  
Anthony Richardson, University of North Carolina at Chapel  
Hill

David Rudner, Harvard Medical School  
Natividad Ruiz, Ohio State University  
Birgit Scharf, Virginia Tech  
Feng Shao, National Institute of Biological Sciences  
Aimee Shen, University of Vermont  
Renée Tsois, University of California, Davis  
Chris Waters, Michigan State University  
Thomas Zahrt, Medical College of Wisconsin

Each of them brings noted expertise to the journal, and speaking for all of the Editors, I welcome them.

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