From the Editor-in-Chief: Scope Expansion and New Editor-in-Chief for 2014

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As my term as Editor-in-Chief draws to a close, I reflect on all that we have accomplished in the last five years. Together we have moved JMBE into the digital publishing age, secured international indexing, developed resources for authors, and began collecting advertising fees to ensure sustainability. Throughout it all, JMBE has provided a sound forum for faculty—whose scholarly research focuses on student success, faculty development, and best pedagogical practices in microbiology and biology—to publish innovative articles in an internationally indexed, completely on-line, rigorous, peer-reviewed publication. I am proud of all we have accomplished and, at the same time, I look forward to the next steps of the Journal’s evolution. With evolution in mind, it is my pleasure to announce two exciting changes for 2014 and beyond: an expansion of the Journal’s scope and a change in leadership.

First, in addition to publishing manuscripts under the established guidelines, JMBE now welcomes thoughtful and supported discussions of student and faculty success that go beyond curriculum, technique, and practice. We are therefore soliciting manuscripts that address:

- student interest and motivation,
- recruitment and retention,
- citizen science and science outreach,
- K–12 education and outreach,
- institutional transformation,
- online education and MOOCS,
- systemic transformation, and
- a broadening participation in STEM, to name a few focus areas.

Authors intending to submit manuscripts under the new scope should send a 250-word abstract to the JMBE Editorial Office (jmbe@asmusa.org) for consideration and to receive further instructions about the submission and review processes for the proposed manuscript. As always, editors will shepherd the submitted manuscript through the review process to ensure fair and rigorous assessment while providing guidance for successful manuscript publication.

Second, beginning January 1, 2014, there will be a new Editor-in-Chief to lead this endeavor: Dr. Samantha Elliott from St. Mary’s College of Maryland. As a previous Section Editor for the JMBE Curriculum section, she is deeply familiar with the mission of the Journal and will work with the ASM Education Board to solicit important manuscripts, grow the readership, and integrate articles into the new ASMScience platform. Elliott studies the immune response of the nematode Caenorhabditis elegans to bacterial or fungal pathogens and has a number of recent publications in journal, case study, and textbook repositories. Her discipline-based education research focuses on curricular design and interventions to help underrepresented groups succeed in STEM disciplines. Elliott is an active presenter at education conferences and is an alumnus of the Biology Scholars Program and the Project Kaleidoscope Summer Leadership Institute. With her dedication to both science and education research, Samantha is perfectly poised to lead JMBE into the next chapter of its development and success.

Please join me in warmly welcoming her to the EIC position. It has been my honor to serve as your JMBE Editor-in-Chief for the last five years. Thank you for your support of me, JMBE, and ASM. I wish you all every success.