From the Editor-in-Chief: Make Some Time to Share Your Creative Ideas and Best Practices!

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May brings warmer weather, the end of a semester, and the beginning of what I like to call “conference season.” Conferences are an important venue for sharing our work and rejuvenating our teaching. Biology educators will have an opportunity to gather at many interesting meetings and conferences this summer to share new ideas and best practices. Of course, the American Society for Microbiology’s Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE) in Austin, Texas, and the education sessions at the ASM General Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, are on many of our agendas. Did you also know that the first Gordon Conference on the subject of biology education will convene this July in Maine? And that the burgeoning population of biology education researchers will also gather at the annual Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research (SABER) meeting in Minneapolis in August? I can’t wait to hear what exciting studies are being conducted in our field. Indeed, it’s an inspiring time to be in biology education. I hope to see many of you at these meetings! If you are planning on attending and have questions about the journal, need to discuss a manuscript idea, or simply want to network, please free to reach out to me.

On the *JMBE* front, we are continuously working to improve our author experience and feature interesting studies in biology education. Here are some of the items on the agenda for 2015:

**A changing of the guard**

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Lucy Kluckhohn-Jones of Santa Monica College (Tips and Tools Editor) and Jeffrey Pommerville of Glendale Community College (Perspectives Editor) for their years of service to *JMBE*. Both Lucy and Jeffrey have been instrumental in making *JMBE* the journal it is today. They will be missed! We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Heather Seitz of Johnson County Community College (Tips and Tools Editor) and Karen Klycek of University of Wisconsin–River Falls (Perspectives Editor). Heather and Karen have been working hard since January, and I know that their sections are in more capable hands!

**Inside ASM Education**

We are debuting a new section in *JMBE* with the May issue, entitled *Inside ASM Education*. This new section will provide a venue for the ASM Education Board to share outcomes data and information that stem from the review of various ASM Education programs. This section currently undergoes editorial review, and requires data-driven evaluation of ASM initiatives or programs. In the inaugural article, Rachel Horak (ASM Education Fellow) describes faculty implementation of ASM Curriculum Guidelines.

**Reviewer survey and recognition**

We sent out a survey to our reviewer pool in February to better understand each reviewer’s strengths and availability, and to streamline our review process. Thank you to everyone who replied in such a prompt manner! With this information, we can assign reviewers based upon their reported availability and determine which sections need more help with the review process. In the past, we have listed our entire reviewer pool on *JMBE*’s Editorial Board page. From now on, all individuals who contribute to the review process since the previous issue will be recognized in this listing. This gives reviewers credit for their hard work and also makes the review process more transparent for authors. Interested in reviewing for *JMBE*? Please send an email with your CV and indication of expertise to JMBE@asmusa.org.

**Continued work on Author Guideline translations**

Last year we debuted translations of our Author Guidelines documents into Spanish and Mandarin Chinese (both traditional and simplified characters). To continue this effort, we would like further translations of our Author Guidelines into French and Portuguese. Translators will be credited for their work on the *JMBE* website. Contact JMBE@asmusa.org if you wish to participate in this project.

**Theme issue**

Our debut theme section on Scientific Ethics last December was a huge hit! Keep an eye out for a monograph of selected essays from the theme issue, entitled *Perspectives in Responsible Conduct of Research* and published by ASM Press.
coming soon! We will also feature a *JMBE* Profiles episode with ASM Publishing Ethics Manager, Erika Davies, in May. Dr. Davies will discuss the importance of scientific ethics in research and publishing, trends in research misconduct, and available resources to help educate ASM members and non-members about the importance of scientific integrity. Based on reader interest, we look forward to continuing the theme idea with a completely independent theme issue to be published in Spring 2016. The call for papers for the new theme, Scientific Citizenship, can be found on the *JMBE* website.

**Beware of predatory publishers!**

Speaking of scientific ethics, it has come to our attention that certain predatory publishers are targeting *JMBE* authors by listing their *JMBE* citation in a solicitation e-mail for further academic work on the subject. We encourage all authors to refer to the Beall’s List of Predatory Publishers or do some internet searching to determine whether a solicitation is legitimate before responding.

**JMBE is now on ASMScience!**

We are excited to announce that *JMBE* content will also be available for viewing and downloading via ASMScience.org—the ASM website for digital publications. Readers can search and browse for *JMBE* content alongside other premium ASM book and periodical publications. Stay tuned for announcements throughout the year as *JMBE* content and new features become available via this additional reader venue.

The *JMBE* Editorial Board is looking forward to a productive and exciting 2015 as we accomplish the initiatives described above. As always, I encourage our readers to contact me regarding feedback on the journal, ideas for possible content, and suggestions for reader and author enhancements. We look forward to working with you as an author in the future!