

Looking Ahead at *Environmental Health Perspectives*

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I am excited to have been handed the editorial pen for *Environmental Health Perspectives* (*EHP*), and it is with enthusiasm that I take on the role as the journal's new Editor-in-Chief. *EHP* is an exceptional journal. As a publication of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and a leading scholarly journal in the field, *EHP* has a rich history and a terrific future.

I assume leadership with the journal in sound condition, taking over from the able hands of Dr. Sally Darney (Darney 2020). *EHP* has an outstanding staff committed to the mission of the journal and a large number of dedicated volunteer associate editors and reviewers.

Moving forward, it is my goal to see this journal publish the highest quality scientific advances in the field, be the journal in which environmental health scientists strive to publish their best work, and inspire trust from readers by providing rigorously peer-reviewed original research, reviews, and commentaries. *EHP* has a well-earned reputation for integrity, for demanding transparent reporting of methods and findings, and for publishing important and trustworthy scientific advances.

The environmental health sciences comprise several contributing scientific disciplines, and *EHP* should work to publish the most exciting and dynamic findings from each of these disciplines (Kaufman and Curl 2019; Pettibone et al. 2018). *EHP* must maintain its outstanding reputation for publication ethics and for highlighting cutting-edge science. Importantly, *EHP* has a responsibility to publish science that influences not only other scientists but also policy makers and the public health community.

There are several areas in which the journal has room for improvement, and I welcome input on these from readers and potential authors. In particular, I have heard from many contributors that the journal needs to not only improve the timeliness of completing peer review but also reduce the overall time and burden on authors from submission to publication of accepted papers. After I complete a brief period of fact finding and implementing some changes in procedures and editorial workflow, I anticipate that you will perceive improvement in both of these areas. The journal will learn from and adopt the best practices of our peer scientific journals.

Assuming the role of Editor-in-Chief is a tremendous honor. While prior editors of the journal have been full-time employees of the NIEHS, my tenure in this role marks a departure from that

tradition. In a change that will mirror most of our peer journals, I will continue my role as an investigator and academic while providing leadership to the journal. I anticipate that my principal early focus will be on adjusting peer review practices and providing a liaison between the journal and the scientific community.

Over the next few months, you can expect to hear about several changes in the journal. I plan to appoint a small number of deputy editors at the journal and rework the membership and responsibilities of both the Board of Associate Editors and the Editorial Review Board. The revamped boards will have more opportunities for involvement in the journal. We will increase the transparency regarding the types of contributions and topic areas that are priorities for *EHP*. I anticipate there will be some new article types. Over the next year, we will also be rolling out a series of opportunities for early career environmental health scientists to become actively engaged in the life of the journal.

As I step into this role, I want to make clear that I welcome your input not only on areas of improvement for the journal's operations but also on the editorial content of the journal. I will be attending several scholarly meetings in the key environmental health scientific disciplines, listening to your thoughts about the journal, and seeking out the most exciting science.

I appreciate the confidence that the leadership of the NIEHS has placed in me for the next chapter of *EHP*. I have also received full assurance that the journal will retain the strong support of the institute leadership while maintaining full editorial independence (Birnbaum and Tilson 2009). *EHP* holds a special place for scientists in the disciplines that comprise the environmental health sciences. I hope you will join me in thinking about how to make this outstanding journal even better.

References

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