

Editor's message

Dear Readers,

With excitement and anticipation, I am writing to you in my first issue as the new Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology (JEM). As the official journal of the International Society of Protistologists, JEM has long been a trusted venue for protistologists to report their findings. I am honored to be the latest in a tradition of editors to steward the journal, and hope to live up to my predecessors' records of success. My thanks especially go to Prof. Roberto Docampo, who has served as the Editor-in-Chief of JEM for the past 12 years with tireless effort and great wisdom.

Now is a time of emerging challenges and exciting opportunities for Protistology. JEM's mission is to provide a venue for protistologists to publish high quality, foundational, research on the basic biology of microbial eukaryotes: a mission that has been fulfilled for nearly 70 years. I strongly believe that JEM has a pivotal role to play as our discipline strengthens and grows.

There are essential discussions happening at the moment within, and about, academic publishing. Novel modes of peer review, the rise of predatory journals, artificial intelligence in academic writing, and the industry-wide move to open access are all critical strategic issues which JEM must navigate. At the same time, there are exceptional opportunities for protistologists, as technological advances open up new fields of enquiry that JEM should enthusiastically embrace.

My vision for JEM is twofold. It is crucial that it remains an accessible venue that publishes foundational work in the field of Protistology. That means prioritizing the inclusion of work that is rigorous and relevant, recognizing the importance of building a base of knowledge that serves to inform future leaps forward. This is impact, not impact factor. It means ensuring that deserving work is published regardless of financial obstacles,

keeping our page charges low to keep the journal accessible to as wide a community as possible. Finally, it means ensuring that diverse voices are heard, from the range of protistological sub-disciplines and across the globe. At the same time, my vision is to expand the perceived scope of JEM. It is already known as a top-tier venue for taxonomy, parasitology, and microscopy. It can become the same for genomics, molecular evolution, ecology, and evolutionary cell biology of protists. I hope to see JEM being one of the first places that people consider when they have a robust and interesting story in Protistology.

Your thoughts on the journal and especially suggestions for future articles, special issues, and reviews are most welcome. Over the coming year, there are changes that I hope to bring about for JEM; aimed at improving the submission, review, and publication processes. It is an exciting prospect for our editorial team to expand JEM's scope and reach, while continuing to bring you a publication that you enjoy and rely upon in your research.

I look forward to working with you all.

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