Dear Editor,

A very Happy New Year to you, first of all. I'm very pleased to be able to share an update in which we aim to summarize recent developments, highlight important changes, and share insights and updates which affect your role.
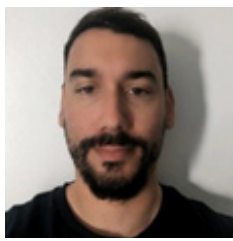
A brief word from me

I want to start by thanking those of you who responded to our editor survey last year. It was fantastic to get your feedback and especially to see that over 90% of you felt our proposed strategic themes resonated with you. Two key issues stood out from your feedback: those of finding reviewers and dealing with research integrity issues. We've been working hard on both these topics and there's more on each below.

Progress on key themes

As an editor, you advance trusted research and help authors improve their work. Our role is to provide you with tools, support, and guidance which enable us to accomplish these goals together. As you may know, our focus revolves around three key themes. Going forward we will share regular updates for each of these areas.

Empowering you to focus on the science

We understand that one of the most challenging aspects of the role of editors is to find relevant reviewers. That's why we are continually investing in and enhancing our technology to support you in this crucial task. Our Find Reviewers tool connected to Editorial Manager offers a wide range of options to help you find suitable and diverse reviewers.

Product Manager Ahmed Fakrouni comments: "*Guided by our ever-improving AI-driven system recommendations, editors can mobilize their editorial boards, easily identify volunteering reviewers, and evaluate potential referees using a suite of useful signals. Find Reviewers enables a much greater diversity of peer review as its recommendations expand well beyond the direct network of our editorial teams.*"

You can explore Find Reviewers on your Invite Reviewers page in Editorial Manager – check it out!

Other updates in this area
- » Read our recap of all recent enhancements to the Find Reviewers tool
- » Check out the advice on how not to lose your Impact Factor
- » Find out how the new "Evaluate Manuscript" can help you better assess the scientific integrity, scope, and fit for your journal

Collaborating to advance trusted research

Research integrity is a core priority for us, and to ensure the reliability and integrity of the research we publish, we focus on three areas: we set and uphold high standards of rigor and ethics in our publishing, we invest in human oversight and technology to help detect and prevent problematic content, and we collaborate with others on initiatives to safeguard trust in research. You can learn more about how we're upholding research integrity here.

"*To uphold the highest standards of publishing ethics, we are continuously investing in both human expertise and advanced technology. This includes expanding our Research Integrity & Publishing Ethics team and developing innovative tools to identify signs of malpractice at every stage of the publication process. These tools are now also capable of investigating fraud on a large scale, which enables us to identify and correct issues after expert validation.*

While one of the most immediate outcomes we will observe is an increase in the number of corrections to the record, including potential retractions – made possible by our enhanced ability to conduct large-scale investigations – what we are most excited about is the expansion of these tools to earlier stages of the publication process, which will increasingly help prevent the publication of fraudulent articles. Your journals will be invited to participate in new pilot projects to use our tools, and if you haven't yet, you can expect to hear more about them soon." – Sarah Jenkins, Senior Director, Research Integrity & Publishing Ethics.

Other updates in this area
- » Do you know how Elsevier is safeguarding the research landscape?
- » See our top tips on how to identify citation misconduct
- » Review our generative AI policies for journals

Enhancing the service provided to authors

Submission and peer review activities are a crucial part of the publishing process. We are dedicated to providing the highest standard of user experience while maintaining the integrity of our published knowledge. To achieve this, we have started working with our community on our next generation publishing experience to support authors, editors and reviewers.

"*Authors tell us they want a smooth and streamlined submission process. Responding to this need, we are dedicated to simplifying the submission process by eliminating unnecessary questions and redundant requirements, which will also enhance the efficiency of editors in handling and processing submissions,*" says Director, Product Management Heather Williams.

Other updates in this area
- » Check out our new free author guides on how to get published (and noticed)
- » Learn how to give authors maximum clarity over the decisions you make
- » Read our latest open access advice for authors

I hope you've found this update useful. If you have any questions or feedback, please let your regular publishing contact know.

Finally, I want to reinforce my enthusiasm for having the opportunity to work together with you this coming year in shaping the future of academic publishing. I am confident that, through our collective efforts, we will continue to advance research and drive positive change.

Thank you once again for your commitment and support.

Laura Hassink
Managing Director, STMJ