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Environmental Pollution

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Editorial

A new page for Environmental Pollution



Starting from June 1, 2015, *Environmental Pollution* will be run by a new editorial team, and I am honored to be the journal's next co-editor-in-chief. However, this is really not a honor per se; it means initiatives, responsibility, and workload. We recognize that the scientific publishing world has become more competitive than ever. Attracting the best quality submissions is the journal's top priority for many years to come. Lots of work are ahead of us, and we must continue to innovate the ways we conduct business.

First of all, we intend to broaden the journal's scope; all manuscripts in relation to a specific pollution issue are considered relevant. We are particularly interested in manuscripts with an interplay between environmental pollution and biological, ecological, or human health effects. We are looking for innovative papers on emerging pollutants such as microplastics or electronic wastes. These are pollutants in a more classical sense. However, we also consider light or noise as environmental pollutants with almost undiscovered biological or ecological effects. *Environmental Pollution* will be happy to stimulate and subsequently publish papers on these issues. Overall, we very much encourage hypothesis-based or process-based papers; simple monitoring papers describing known pollutants at new sites are mainly discouraged.

With this vision, the challenge for the journal is obviously how to distinguish itself from other environment-related journals within the Elsevier family. Concerted efforts shall be made to coordinate the handling of manuscripts with *Aquatic Toxicology*, *Chemosphere*, *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*, *Environment International*, *Environmental Research*, *Science of the Total Environment*, *Water Research*, although some overlapping is inevitable and even sound. We will also increase the publication of special issues, focusing on the impacts of anthropogenic activities on the environment and topics of emerging concern. This proposition, which has been part of the journal's long-term strategy, is reinforced again, in response to the global society's growing concern about the quality of our living environment and human health, particularly in emerging regions.

As a consequence of the expansion of the journal's scope, the number of published papers annually is expected to substantially increase from the current level. The eventual size of the journal is surely dynamic, dependent upon the number of quality submissions received every year. In any event, we will not compromise the journal's reputation as a premium scientific publishing outlet in exchange of expansion. On the contrary, rigorous peer review continues to be implemented. To accommodate the expected growth of the journal's size, we are in need of additional associate editors who are experienced with peer-review processes and dedicated to the highest academic and ethical standards.

We will also explore ways to further improve the quality and speed of peer review. Apparently the hard work of the reviewers must be adequately recognized. To this end, a list of all the reviewers who have reviewed manuscripts for the journal will be published in the last issue of a calendar year. Another soon-to-be implemented measure is to allow associate editors to send editorial decisions directly to authors, without the need to be approved by the editors-in-chief. This will not only solidify the authority of associate editors throughout the entire peer-review process, but also augment their responsibilities in safeguarding the highest possible standards for accepting manuscripts for the journal.

I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to lead *Environmental Pollution* into the next decade. We are confident that the journal will continue to maintain its status as a preferred destiny for quality environmental research results. At this cross-road, we would like to take the liberty to thank Dr. Williams Manning, the outgoing editor-in-chief, for his utmost leadership and vision that have tremendously contributed to the journal's rapid growth and status as a premium outlet for scientific publishing. We will miss him dearly.

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