



## Publications Committee American Society of Plant Biologists

Committee meeting, July 17, 2020, 12 noon – 2 pm EDT  
GoToMeeting

### PRESENT

Neil Olszewski (chair), Steve Theg, Lisa Ainsworth, Pam Hines, Hong Ma, Craig Schenk, Mike Plant (EIC, *Plant Physiology*), Blake Meyers (EIC, *The Plant Cell*), Ivan Baxter (EIC, *Plant Direct*), Rob Last (past president), Judy Callis (president), Crispin Taylor (CEO), Nancy Winchester (director of publications), Mary Williams (TPC features editor), Jennifer Regala (consultant), Clara Woodall (CFO)

Neil opened the meeting at noon.

Agenda approved.

Pam motioned to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2020, meeting. Steve seconded. Minutes approved.

Neil reviewed the April 17 action items, some of which will move to the August meeting.

Portability: Reviewer Commons is an ongoing discussion, and the ed boards should discuss it. Pubs Comm will discuss it once we see how our internal portability initiative is working.

Neil addressed TOPS re: chemical structures. He found nothing on chemical structures in TOPS and suggested we let it go for now.

Crispin gave an update on the upcoming Plant Biology Worldwide Summit. We are exceeding registration goals. Dollars are lagging b/c of group discounts, but not by much. All in all, going well. The EICs and Neil should be present for the Town Hall, as OUP is on Judy's agenda. The journals workshop earlier in the week is on Figures and Design. Regarding publications, we will have a Wiley booth, an OUP presence, our own pubs booth, CoB & Development sponsoring the iPoster platform, and a few other places where other publishers can show up. Pam will be a presence for *Science*.

### OUP Partnership

Crispin reported that we are working through transition steps, importantly the transition of the HighWire archive. We are engaged in discussions about the DIVE algorithm; OUP is committed to integrating it into their production platform but wary of bespoke. What do we do to transition DIVE to OUP? Might OUP want to partner with TACC?

Neil asked about announcements to roll out the partnership. We have FAQs, a blast email to the entire community (38,000 records), and the press release before the Summit all in the works. We will hold a webinar devoted to the partnership in August. Steve noted that there is

nothing for authors or readers to say yet; we will hear from them when their experience changes.

### **EIC Updates**

*Plant Physiology* is again an “A” journal in China. Its JIF went from 6.3 to 6.9 this year, and it has a long citing half-life. No Founders Review for 2020, but two in 2021, maybe three. We are publishing Topical Reviews too, three in 2020 most likely. Julia is stepping down as Reviews Editor. The focus issues are doing well, seven in 2021. Acceptance rate is a healthy 28%. We recently introduced Letters. We published 1,518 research articles in 2019.

*The Plant Cell's* JIF went from 8.63 to 9.62, and its five-year JIF is now over 10. This represents Sabeeha's full term. The journal now has four women senior editors, new guest editors, and a few promotions from guest to reviewing editor. We predict 184 research articles by year-end, an acceptance rate of 27% (up from 21% over the past few years). Time from submission to first decision has increased, so we are working on that. The AFEs are working well. We are updating the IFAs. Blake is lining up one or two focus issues; Biology of Plant Genomes will be first. The board meeting on July 6 had 97 participants and ran 2 hours. A survey was sent out.

*Plant Direct* now has a partnership with JExBot and will get manuscripts from them around September. Its debut JIF was 1.75, though JIFs are a metric the journal generally doesn't consider. The COVID dip reversed, and there has been an uptick in papers. Ivan's request for a new supervising editor position is with the *Plant Direct* Management Committee. Ivan is working to increase diversity on the board. The first Registered Report has been submitted. The rate of referrals coming in with reviews attached is increasing.

### **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (Mary, Crispin)**

EDI must be an ongoing discussion in every action, every consideration. We will flesh this out in August. We are creating a section on the Plantae website that will highlight underrepresented minority (URM) scientists, highlight opportunities for URM scientists (e.g., travel awards), provide a private safe space for discussions, and provide resources for allies. Expect to launch in September.

In the context of the journals and editorial board diversity, we have failed to bring in large numbers of underrepresented groups. The farther down the funnel we can reach, the better. Train reviewers. Next year at Plant Biology, should the journals workshop be on reviewer training?

We are now seeing a commitment to inclusion and diversity, both in time and money, with Conviron Scholars. ASPB needs to make a larger commitment to EDI and tell our community that we have goals and need their input. Include questions around EDI during the PP EIC interviews this fall.

### **Portability (Jennifer)**

A big takeaway from our author survey.

--within the ASPB family of journals, eases burdens on authors and reviewers

--lots of marketing done to announce

--metrics and analysis

- Transfer reports
- Submission counts
- Custom query reports: Ash and Annette
- How many reviewers willing to port reviews?
- EICs and ed board members need to help us to think about what we can report on and what metrics we need
- Set up early on and circulate metrics
- Put Google Doc into chat

Focus on how journals can collaborate with larger messaging/marketing plans that OUP will have for us.

Think about messaging, other ways to communicate with membership about all the things the journals do for the Society, members, and community. EDUCATE. Dispel misassumptions.

**Name changes.** Wiley can do this...women change names; trans people change names. We should enable changing one's name retroactively. Can OUP do it? Do PP and TPC want to do it? Wiley does it, Cell Press is going to do it. Discuss during August 2020 meeting.

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