

## Editorial

# PBJ publishes high-impact original plant biotechnology research with free global access

Welcome to the first issue of the sixteenth volume of the *Plant Biotechnology Journal*. *PBJ* has successfully transitioned from a subscription-based journal to an open-access journal, supported exclusively by authors. This transition resulted in enhanced free global access to all our readers. As the only open access journal among the top ten plant science journals, *PBJ* is now ranked third for citations of original articles behind *Plant Cell* and *Nature Plants*. Indeed, the top three highest cited original articles in plant sciences in 2016 are published in *PBJ*. In addition, *PBJ* receives the lowest boost (21 citations, 1.4%) from editorial articles excluded from impact factor calculations when compared with other peer journals (430 citations, 29% of *Molecular Plant*). Such journal impact analysis data reported in a recent *Plant Cell* editorial (August 2017) shows that *PBJ* is building on the strength of high-impact original inventions reported by our authors and critically evaluated by our editors/reviewers. Therefore, I convey my greatest appreciation to our authors for submitting their best research and our editors/reviewers for their thoughtful evaluations. I look forward to your continued support in 2018.

With continued dedication of a highly committed team of editors and excellent contributions from our authors and critical evaluation by our reviewers, *PBJ* has moved up several notches in ISI ranking (7th of 212) among plant science and (10th of 158) biotechnology/applied microbiology journals, with a JIF percentile of 96.93% and 94.06%, respectively. Total citations have increased 190% since I accepted the role of editor in chief in 2012. Continued improvement in journal performance resulted in a record number of manuscript submissions in 2017. In contrast to other plant science journals, who saw reducing numbers of citable articles (57% *Plant Cell*, 67% *Plant Journal*), *PBJ* increased its number of published articles in 2017 by 194%, in order to meet continued demand for publishing in this field. Of course, this has increased the number of *PBJ* reviewers and I am eternally grateful for their critical evaluations and time commitment. The increase in number of reviewers did not significantly increase the average turnaround time, rewarding our authors with timely decisions on their submissions. Considering *PBJ* is still a very young journal, these are very impressive accomplishments.

*PBJ* Altmetric scores of high-impact articles are at times, higher than those published in *Science* or *Nature* journals. Indeed, in the *Plant Cell* editorial (2016 August), the x-axis for citation distribution graphs was doubled from 50 to 100 citations for *PBJ* in order to accommodate highly cited original articles. In order to further engage the public or policy makers in scientific discussions, I request that authors provide *Twitter titles* at the time of manuscript submission. In addition, I encourage authors to share news releases on their articles with the *PBJ* editorial office so that they are included in Wiley Plant Science tweets @PlantSciNews, which has ~10 000 followers.

As an applied plant biology journal, *PBJ* has a unique role in building bridges between academia, industry and regulatory agencies and also in increasing awareness of plant biotechnology research among the public. While full-length articles encompassing in-depth studies meet scientific needs, they are not suitable when engaging the public and regulatory agencies. Therefore, I encourage authors to submit '*PBJ letters*' to briefly report new inventions or commentaries (limit: 3 printed page articles, <1500 words, 10 citations and one illustration, no supplementary files).

With the support of *PBJ* management, I have doubled the number of associate editors, representing several new areas and different continents, not previously represented. We welcome new associate editors Dr. Caixia Gao, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing,

Dr. Zuhua He, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai and Dr. Kan Wang, Iowa State University, USA. The *PBJ* editorial board is currently being revitalized by replacing less active members with investigators in emerging new disciplines. I convey my sincere thanks for the excellent service offered by all our Associate Editors who have served on board for several years, editorial staff (Jim Ruddock, Samantha Crisp, Rosie Trice, Adam Wheeler at Wiley, Oxford) and the Production team (Julie Ann Suliguin, Production Editor, Manila). My special thanks to Prof. Paul Hutchinson, outgoing SEB Executive Officer, for his enthusiastic support of *PBJ* from its inception and creative ideas for advancement.

*PBJ* is now compatible with mobile platforms, tablets, iPads and iPhones and offers several new options to evaluate short- and long-term impact of published articles, including Altmetric scores, article readership and citations. I encourage all readers to visit the journal homepage (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291467-7652>) to take advantage of open access. Please note that readers should 'opt-in' to receive e-alerts, by visiting the journal homepage and registering at the 'Get Content Alerts' area. *PBJ* is prohibited from communicating with readers who do not "opt in."

*PBJ* management has approved my request to waive or reduce the open access fee for manuscripts recommended for publication for a limited number of authors who do not have adequate funding for publications. Additionally, Automatic Article Publication Charge waivers and discounts may also be given to authors from countries on the Waivers and Discounts List. In order to apply for a waiver or discount, authors should submit a request during submission (<http://www.wileyopenaccess.com/details/content/13707a1ddf6/Waivers-and-Discounts-on-Article-Publication-Charges.html>). Therefore, I am fully committed to advancing *PBJ*'s mission of publishing high quality manuscripts with free global access and look forward to your continued support.



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