Editorial

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Editorial 2014

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It is a great privilege for me to take over as the Editor-in-Chief of *Biology Letters* from Brian Charlesworth. I am very much looking forward to working with the Handling Editors, the Editorial Board, Charlotte Wray and the rest of the editorial team at the Royal Society, building on the outstanding achievements of the last 8 years.

In a short period of time, *Biology Letters* has become a prominent international journal, specializing in the rapid publication of innovative, high-quality research articles in the realm of biological sciences. It is my mission now to take the journal forward and to encourage the submission of presently under-represented disciplines.

My principal aim is to build on the journal's existing strengths in, for example, behavioural biology and evolutionary ecology, while developing a stronger representation of other aspects of biology, some of which, such as global change biology and conservation biology, are already covered, but some, such as restoration ecology, freshwater biology, palaeoecology and long-term ecology, are currently absent. I also want to encourage submissions from the environmental sciences, including, for example, ecohydrology, biogeochemistry, soil science, environmental pollution, limnology and oceanography, Earth system science and environmental change.

As we broaden the scope of the journal in this way, I also seek to attract submissions that relate to issues of societal interest, such as climate change, pollution, conservation of biodiversity, water resources and food security, in support of global agendas that are seminal to the biological and environmental sciences.

For the management of the journal, this will require an expansion of the Editorial Board to cover the range of additional expertise required both in providing advice, handling papers and in promoting the journal among research communities whose members have not previously considered *Biology Letters* as an outlet for their work.

Finally and partly to facilitate these changes, we are adding 'Reviews' as a new article type. In keeping with the style of the journal, review articles will need to be concise (5000 words maximum), highly focused, concerned with active debates and of interest to a broad biological and environmental science readership.

I have already started by asking members of the Editorial Board to propose topics suitable for review articles and we will soon begin commissioning reviews on specific topics in those areas of biological and environmental science we are seeking to strengthen. Our aim is to publish approximately one review per month. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who wishes to write a review article to contact Charlotte Wray, our Publishing Editor.

To old and new readers alike, thank you for your support. We welcome your papers and we aim to accommodate any wish you might have to help us further the interests of *Biology Letters* and make it the premier short-format journal dealing with biological sciences.