

Editor-in-Chief January 2022 Report

This document describes my main activities during the second half of 2021. Note that it is inclusive of the journals *Systematic Biology* and *The Bulletin of the Society of Systematic Biologists*.

- I. **Submissions & Decisions.** As of December 31st, *Systematic Biology* has received 402 manuscripts in 2021. This is up by about 40 manuscripts from 2020. I hit a wall about halfway through the fall semester and the pace of decisions slowed down a bit. I'm about caught up now and am very happy that Isabel is ready to take over.
- II. **Manuscript handling.** Refer to the Publisher's and Virtual Editorial Office report for details on how OUP handles accepted manuscripts, data on manuscript submissions, etc.
- III. **Oxford University Press.** Ayesha Saldanha serves as the Publisher for *Systematic Biology*. In general she is responsive to our needs. Ayesha would like to develop lists of classic papers published in the journal. If anyone is interested in curating a list on a topic of your choice please let me know and I will put you in contact with Ayesha.
- IV. **Associate Editors.** We had several AEs resign in the last few months as people continue to struggle with the challenges associated with the pandemic. I have not appointed any new people because I am leaving that task to Isabel. I anticipate that we'll have some new AEs to announce in June at the Evolution meeting.
- V. **Update on the Bulletin.** We currently have 12 manuscripts in review at the *Bulletin*. We also have an issue scheduled to be published in the next week, which will be Volume 1 (Issue 1). The first issue consists of manuscripts from the Modernizing Monography special issue that was organized by Meg Daly and Felipe Zapata. We have two special issues in the works. One is organized by Andrea Quattrini on the topic of Species Delimitation. The second is organized by Jessica Ware and the DEI committee on a topic to be determined. In the next months, I will be soliciting people to lead additional special issues and soliciting articles for the *Bulletin*, particularly in the Review category. I would like to ask all of you to consider (i) submitting papers to the *Bulletin*, and (ii) to talk up the journal to your friends and colleagues.

Major objectives remaining.

- I. **Bulletin Launch.** We are now live for submissions at <https://ssbbulletin.org>, we are working through bugs in the review process, refining our LaTeX templates, manuscript handling procedures, etc. Our first issue will be published in a few weeks. One thing that I need is a way to check membership status because we require authors to be members of the journal.
- II. **Data policy.** Dan Rabosky has volunteered to redo our data policy for both journals. I'd like to see this completed by the Evolution meeting
- III. **Bulletin Succession Plan.** I would like to continue as acting EIC for the *Bulletin* when my term as *Systematic Biology* EIC is completed in December of 2022. I feel like the pandemic really slowed down progress on the *Bulletin* and I would like to see it through until it feels like the journal will be successful and sustainable.
- IV. **Bulletin Budget.** In January of 2022 I requested \$23,500 to fund the start-up costs associated with the *Bulletin*. We somehow have only spent some \$6500 of this total, almost entirely in salary costs to Dinah Ward (our managing editor). On top of that, we have generated \$12,500 in the form of an invoice payable to SSB to support publishing costs from Meg Daly and Felipe Zapata. I'd like to request that these funds be set aside for future use.