

Introductory Editorial

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I am pleased to announce the launch of *Gene Expression to Genetical Genomics*, a new peer reviewed open access journal published by Libertas Academica.

The aims and scope of this international journal is to cover all aspects of gene and genome expression and its effect in resulting phenotypes at different facets of biological organization including development and environmental exposures. Topics include mechanisms of gene regulation including epigenetics, consequences of over and under expression, evolving resources and technologies and approaches to relate gene and genomic expression to the phenotype. The journal welcomes cutting edge research on aspects of genetical genomics (combination of gene expression with genetic linkage) and other approaches that have the potential to offer novel insight in the manifestation of complex phenotypes.

Gene Expression to Genetical Genomics will publish primary research as *Research Articles* or *Letters* and resources and technologies as *Methods*. The journal will also consider timely *Commentaries*, *Reviews and Opinion* papers, both solicited and unsolicited. Feel free to consult Editor-in-Chief with your suggestions. All submissions will undergo a rigorous, fair and prompt editorial peer review.

Gene Expression to Genetical Genomics will be competing head-on with a number of existing subscription-based journals in the field. There is clearly a niche for this new journal, which covers gene expressions at every level including the level of the genome. The primary focus is the role of expression in phenotypes. As such it goes beyond reporting of results on the expression of single genes. Also, all journal articles will be accessible without any access boundaries to all internet users throughout the world. Another major benefit of open access online journals is that anyone can contribute, and not only those in major institutions.

Gene Expression to Genetical Genomics is published exclusively online. Articles will follow a consistent format so that the visual impact will be high and equal to that of the best hard-copy publications. In contrast to paper-based journals, however, the electronic format allows the full use of digital technologies and permits the inclusion of large data sets, from field and laboratory studies, links to other web pages, animations, slide shows, video clips and unlimited colour, all at no additional charge. Open access means that all articles are freely available to all, worldwide, and at no cost to the reader. Authors retain copyright of their work and can grant anyone the right to reproduce and disseminate it, provided that it is correctly cited and no errors are introduced, under the Creative Commons "CC-BY" licence.

In hard-copy journals, the costs of publication are met by subscriptions, paid by the reader. In *Gene Expression to Genetical Genomics*, as in other open access journals, these costs are borne by the author in the form of a publication processing fee. Many grant-awarding bodies recognise the value of open access publishing by allowing their funds to be used for PPFs. Fee waivers and discounts are available on a case-by-case basis, and we shall make every effort to ensure that lack of funds does not impede the overall objective of publishing the best science, irrespective of authorship or country of origin.

I do not foresee that open access, online journals will totally replace the traditional print format in the immediate future, although this may be an increasing trend with time. I am certain, however, that the benefits of online publication, and the extra opportunities that digital technologies give to authors, will be increasingly recognised. Open access is of huge benefit to the researchers working in institutions around the world

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where institutional libraries are unable to afford subscription fees for a full range of journals.

I expect that *Gene Expression to Genetical Genomics* will attract manuscripts of the highest quality which are of the greatest possible benefit to readers. We encourage scientists from all countries and continents to consider submitting their comprehensive research to the journal. We assure a fair and prompt review. Peer review of all submitted manuscripts will be undertaken by at least two

leading experts. Feel free to contact Editor-in-Chief with your CV and research record, if you wish to participate in the editorial process. We are confident that our journal will provide an exceptional forum for the biology of the new century and help unify life sciences.

For further information on what we hope will be an exciting and highly useful new journal, please click on the “about this journal” link on the journal’s web page.