

## Editorial: PRX Life Celebrates Its First Anniversary

Choosing the right journal for your work is crucial. Each journal offers a unique approach depending on its scope, editorial team, target audience, and, more importantly, the type of review process it offers. Given the vast array of publishing options in quantitative biology, PRX Life has made significant strides over the past year in establishing itself as a leading journal in this exciting arena. We've introduced key initiatives like our collaborative review process [1,2] and Collections [3,4] to deliver a high-quality, tailored peer-review experience. As we celebrate our first anniversary, we've published 63 papers, showcasing the breadth of opportunities at the interface of physical and life sciences [5]. We are excited to continue building on this effort, making PRX Life an even more attractive choice for your best work.

As part of the American Physical Society, PRX Life is driven by the needs of the community at the intersection of physics and biology. We put purpose above profit [6,7]. This year, our main focus has been tailoring a review process that is fair and considerate of the field's interdisciplinary nature. One initiative we've developed encourages referees to co-author reports with their junior colleagues. We have found that involving trainees (postdoctoral fellows and graduate students) has proven valuable, as these jointly written reports tend to be more carefully prepared, considerate, rich, and yet balanced in the level of details. We invite you not only to suggest junior scientists as reviewers but also to consider co-reviewing manuscripts with them and to identify your collaborators when you submit your report so we can credit their work. To recognize these contributions, we have launched the PRX Life Reviewer Excellence Award for the best-written reports of the year. Stay tuned for the official announcement.

Another innovation we've implemented is a collaborative review process [1,2] that respects referees' time and improves authors' experience. As illustrated in Fig. 1, referees are invited to comment on other reports



FIG. 1. PRX Life Collaborative Review Process. This illustration sketches the collaborative part of the review process at PRX Life. After a paper returns from technical evaluation, editors share all the reports with each referee individually for them to read and comment on. Referees provide feedback to the editor privately and may edit their own report before it is shared with the authors. After this step, based on the technical feedback, editors delineate a possible path to publication or reject the paper. This process ensures detailed, balanced feedback and streamlined decision-making, reducing delays for authors and giving them timely direction on the next steps.

and adjust their own if necessary, leading to more coherent and thoughtful editorial decisions, thus reducing extra work for authors.

Some referees have corrected their own misunderstandings when reading other reports, relieving the burden for authors of replying to conflicting reports. Even though optional, we have had strong participation, with most referees replying within just a few hours, showing their higher engagement and limiting delays in communicating decisions to authors.


Central to our mission is creating a home for our community to collaborate and engage. Over the past year, we have spoken to many of you and learned the needs of the biological physics and the broader quantitative life science communities. We have partnered with the organizers of the workshop at NeurIPS 2023 on Machine Learning in Structural Biology to guest edit a topical Collection [3,4], which will be coming out soon. We aim to continue using Collections to deliver a personalized peer-review process tailored for different communities. As biological physics grows rapidly, the breadth of topics covered is impressive, and the needs in these subcommunities may vary. We embrace this diversity as a strength and a unique feature of PRX Life and welcome feedback to enhance our engagement with your community.

Finally, we want to thank you for choosing PRX Life to share your most exciting results. We aim to publish even more work of interest to the multidisciplinary community in quantitative life sciences. When preparing your manuscript, please consider this audience and communicate your results clearly, reducing the use of acronyms, jargon, or any language barriers that could limit your paper's impact. Choose a title that is indicative yet not too detailed. Focus on emphasizing the importance of your findings to a broader audience and write an abstract that offers a preview of what is found in the paper. This will help us showcase the strengths of this entire discipline and the new discoveries that can unfold. PRX Life is dedicated to amplifying your work by broadcasting your research on social media (follow us on X/Twitter) [8], highlighting it through viewpoints, synopses, and interviews in *Physics Magazine* [9], and promoting it to journalists via our press office.

Thank you again for joining us in this venture! We've been excited to see the enthusiastic response from our colleagues in helping build this journal, and we look forward to continuing to disseminate cutting-edge research that bridges physics and life science.

Serena Bradde  
Chief Editor

Margaret Gardel  
Lead Editor

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  - [3] <https://journals.aps.org/prxlife/edannounce/machine-learning-in-structural-biology>
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