

*American Physical Society  
Committee on Scientific Publication  
Report to the APS Council*

The CSP met twice in 2016: on March 28 and October 26, both in Ridge. Below are summaries of the meetings, which cover the main topics addressed by the CSP this year.

**28 March Meeting**

**Members:** S. Bader, K. Belashchenko, D. Blume, P. Cappellaro, A. Demkov, R. Furnstahl, J. Koplik, S. Su (presiding)

**Advisors, Guests:** P. Dlug, M. Doyle, L. Gala (Librarian), B. Hicks, B. Kern (Librarian), D. Kulp, L. Longobardi, S. Maw (recording), H. Rozenfeld

In the absence of the CEO and COO, Doyle recapped the governance structural changes that took place in 2015 and noted that the Senior Management team is functioning well. Changes to the board and council have resulted in less redundancy and clearer focus for each group. The move towards “one APS” is progressing with a unified IT department for the Ridge and College Park offices and more frequent travel of senior management between them. The new publisher, Matthew Salter, joined APS a few weeks ago, the search for a new EIC is ongoing, and the position of CFO will be addressed next.

Kulp (Acting EiC) reported that in 2014 and 2015, the numbers of submitted and published papers declined, whereas they had been steadily rising in prior years. This change will be carefully investigated. Journal acceptance policy “reinvigorations” may be playing a role. He also noted that the percentage of OA papers in APS journals (hybrid and full OA) is rising each year, but is still only at 4.5% for 2015 (total of about 800 papers). This is a much lower number than other scientific fields, but OA continues to be a major focus for APS.

New ISSNs and changes in journals’ subtitles have been completed. This allows PR Accelerators and Beams, PR Physics Education Research, PR Applied, and PR Fluids to form a cohesive family of named, targeted journals, alongside our broad scope “letter” journals PRL, A, B, C, D, E, X.

Kulp said that PRD is a candidate for journal review this year but since the editor is currently on sabbatical, the review will be postponed to Jan 2017. Consideration is being given to reviewing PRApplied in the fall 2016, to make sure it is on track and to make any necessary adjustments. In addition, the current editor’s term expires in Nov 2016, so a review panel would be helpful in advising on future editorial leadership.

Kulp presented information about Sci-Hub, a website that makes research papers illegally available at no cost by using “donated” subscription credentials. It has 48 million records and partners with LibGen, another repository of pirated content. Both are hosted in

Russia or the Netherlands and have proved difficult to shut down. Doyle said that APS is working to actively identify and block all unauthorized Sci-Hub usage coming through our subscriber accounts.

Doyle noted that APS has not yet made a systematic effort to collect ORCIDs but some publishers are now requiring them. He recommended that APS also move toward that goal so we can easily handle author name changes, track publication history, and provide accurate means of identifying authors for the peer review process.

Librarians Lauren Gala (U-Penn) and Barbara Kern (U-Chicago) presented information about how their library budgets are allocated among subject areas and how while subscriptions to journals generally increase by 5% a year, their budgets do not. As a result, they have to drop subscriptions each year.

Doyle gave an update on current information systems projects. CHORUS: APS now makes the accepted ms version of all US-government-funded articles (24-30% of our articles) available to non-subscribers one year after publication (subscribers see the published article). PhySH: APS's new taxonomy, developed to replace PACS, is now being used by authors. Next step: map articles to editors via Physh categories so that editors can be automatically assigned to papers, as is done with PACS (PACS will no longer be requested at this point).

Hicks reported on the status of APS finances, noting that she expects journal revenue to decline in future years for a variety of reasons and recommended that APS focus on finding alternate sources of revenue.

Longobardi (PRFluids Managing Editor) reported that PRFluids opened for submissions on 12 Jan and the numbers for submitted and accepted papers are exceeding expectations. The papers received have been of high quality, hence a higher than 50% acceptance rate so far. The first issue is expected to be released in May 2016.

Julie Kim-Zajonz (PRApplied Managing Editor) gave a status report on PRApplied and noted that an Impact Factor will be assigned this year; projections put it at around 4.2. Next steps include: Expand coverage/scope, solicit more Review Articles, appoint a Review Editor

Salter presented some ideas on how APS could go about expanding its portfolio in the future. He noted that work is being done in several different areas of APS related to journal expansion and recommended that they all be brought together in a single Publishing Intelligence Unit, tasked with finding and developing publishing opportunities. E.g., expanding existing journals according to community needs, using data-driven analysis to identify new areas, looking at "the physics of" other scientific fields, considering both broad and niche journals, adding more routes to gold OA, developing sustainable business models.

## October 26 Meeting

**Members:** S. Bader, K. Belashchenko, D. Blume, A. Demkov, R. Furnstahl, J. Koplik, S. Su (presiding)

**Advisors, Guests:** S. Aronson, P. Dlug, M. Doyle, L. Gala (Librarian), C. Giaccone, B. Kern (Librarian), K. Kirby, D. Kulp, L. Longobardi, S. Maw (recording), P. Meystre, M. Salter, J. Taylor

Kirby noted that both the Editor in Chief (Pierre Meystre) and Publisher (Matthew Salter) roles have now been filled, and she emphasized the importance of collaboration between the two and jointly with the CSP. An update on negotiations with SCOAP3 was given: The current arrangement with CERN will stay in effect until June 2017, and APS will continue to explore the possibility of joining SCOAP3 in the future. The new Publications Initiative Fund was introduced, which is to be used for new journal start-up costs, software for journal content or metrics, and other related initiatives.

Meystre outlined his goal of enhancing the journals' added value (archiving, quality control, imparting credibility, giving scientific credit) by encouraging communication, collaboration, and sharing of resources among the journals; using existing resources more effectively (DAEs, EBs); improving our peer review processes; and educating outside agencies (funding, academic, the media) about the value of APS publications. He also stressed the importance of paying attention to new science that crosses traditionally defined discipline boundaries, specifically by hosting workshops (*Physics Next*) that would focus on such up and coming areas, and also by going after papers and finding space in our journals for them.

Salter gave an overview of the Open Access landscape and his thoughts on how APS should prepare for a possible "flip" to an all-OA business model. He suggested starting to increase our current author processing charges now, so that income from an all-APC model would more closely match our subscription-based income by 2020 or so.

The committee was updated on the progress of proposed new journal, *Physical Review Materials*. A working group is currently working on establishing the scope.

The CSP members gave feedback on three areas that they had been asked about prior to the meeting:

- Lead Editor searches: 4 CSP members were identified, one to serve on each of the four Lead Editor Search Committees.
- *Physics Next* Workshops: Several topics that could be covered at the workshops were provided, as well as suggestions on size, location, and length of the workshops.

- Peer Review: Suggestions on how to demonstrate the value added by peer review were given, as well as comments on the strengths/weaknesses of APS peer review and improvements that could be made.

Doyle gave an update on current information systems projects: CHORUS, PhySH taxonomy, Supplemental Material, ORCID, Analytics. He also mentioned some other endeavors: institutional ids, scanning and providing access to the journal *Physics/Physique/физика*, rebranding APS Journal Accounts for cross-society usage, new materials journal, and OA institutional payments.

Librarians Lauren Gala (U-Penn) and Barbara Kern (U-Chicago) gave a presentation on their institutions' Open Access support. U-Penn has an institutional repository, other OA journals and services, and ran a small OA funding pilot. U-Chicago is currently working on a repository.

Sam Aaronson provided information to the CSP members on the current status of the proposed constitution and bylaws changes regarding the Editor in Chief and Publisher.