

Editor-in-Chief for *FEMS Microbiology Letters*

The Federation of European Microbiological Societies (FEMS) is looking for an Editor-in-Chief to lead its flagship journal, [FEMS Microbiology Letters](http://fems-microbiology.org), for a period of five years, starting in January 2025.



The Journal

FEMS Microbiology Letters is a broad scope microbiology journal with a long history of publishing concise papers. The FEMS portfolio seeks to support researchers throughout their careers, and *FEMS Microbiology Letters* in particular aims to provide a supportive platform from which a research career can grow. FEMS is very proud of *FEMS Microbiology Letters*' track record of being the publishing venue for many scientists' first ever publication. As the journal continues to support early career researchers, it is important that there are no financial barriers to publish in this journal, and so *FEMS Microbiology Letters* remains the only journal within the FEMS portfolio that is a subscription journal (and therefore free to publish, and with no charges to authors).

Role and Responsibilities of the Editor-in-Chief

Summary: The new Editor-in-Chief will work with the FEMS publications team and our publisher, Oxford University Press, to strengthen *FEMS Microbiology Letters*' focus on supporting researchers' careers. It is an exciting time to come on board, as FEMS itself is clarifying its objectives on increasing the impact of microbiology research and elevating the voice of European and international microbiologists globally.

We are seeking an Editor-in-Chief who is looking to step into a leadership role on a not-for-profit journal, with a broad knowledge of microbiology. You will have published extensively yourself in international journals, with previous experience of review and editorial work. You are passionate about supporting other scientists as they grow their career and are willing to work with the FEMS team to identify and implement changes to the way this journal (and the portfolio more broadly) can achieve that.

You will be supported by Section Editors across the journals' sections, as well as teams of Handling Editors within each section of the journal. FEMS's publications team will also support you in this role. In addition, FEMS will provide a stipend to the successful candidate (or their institution, depending on the candidate's situation). Attendance at two conferences a year is also expected of the post holder, and a budget is available to assist with this.

Role Details and Responsibilities: The primary responsibilities of the Editor-in-Chief are to provide editorial leadership and strategic stewardship of the journal and to guide the journal's editorial direction.



In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Editor-in-Chief ensures the journal's content fulfills the journal vision, provides value to its readership, and reflects the highest standards of scientific value and integrity; the Editor-in-Chief also ensures journal operations are conducted in accordance with industry standards and best ethical and publishing practices.

The initial tenure for this position is a five-year term. Tenure extensions are decided upon mutual agreement.

In overseeing the journal's content and operations, the Editor-in-Chief's specific responsibilities are as follows:

- Work closely with FEMS on journal vision, setting priorities, and working to leverage the journal to further FEMS's mission
- Ensure that all articles accepted for publication have undergone a rigorous, objective, and timely peer review process
- Work with Section Editors to enrol and maintain an active, well respected, and technically competent Editorial Board whose members reflect geographical, demographic and cultural diversity and multidisciplinary expertise across the range of disciplines.
- Support the Section Editors and Handling Editors in their roles as required
- Maintain recognized standards of high quality and ethical practice for scholarly publications in line with the COPE guidelines
- Work with Section Editors to enrol and maintain qualified reviewers with diverse areas of expertise to consistently contribute to the peer review process
- Communicate clearly, effectively, promptly, and courteously with authors, reviewers, editors, editorial advisors, and journal staff.
- Handle author or reviewer disputes, conflicts of interest, and allegations of misconduct promptly, courteously, confidentially, and in accordance with recognized guidelines and best practices, seeking counsel on serious matters from FEMS and the journal's Publisher.
- Ensure active engagement of the journal's Editorial Board through regular communication and routine review of board members' performance.

Application Process

Applications should be addressed to Sam Burrell, FEMS Interim Executive Publisher (sam.burrell@fems-microbiology.org), with your CV and a letter of motivation.

If you have any questions and / or would like to talk to the publications team at FEMS before applying, please get in touch at the same email address.

Ideally the new Editor-in-Chief will be in post before the end of September, to allow for a hand over with the current Editor-in-Chief. Candidates will be interviewed on a rolling basis so early submissions of interest and applications are encouraged. Candidates will be interviewed via Zoom.