

Opening for a new EPL Editor-in-Chief

Description of the role and responsibilities

Background

The Board of Directors (BoD) of the Europhysics Letters Association (EPLA) is soliciting nominations for the post of EPL Editor-in-Chief (EiC) for the three and a half year period 2024-2027, starting in May 2024.

The current membership of the BoD is the following: Prof. L. Cifarelli, Dr. A. Henri, Prof. P. Rudolf and Ms. A. Seymour.

EPL was founded in 1986 (as Europhysics Letters) by a consortium of 17 National Physical Societies under the leadership of the European Physical Society (EPS), the Société Française de Physique (SFP), the Società Italiana di Fisica (SIF) and the Institute of Physics (IOP). This group of 17 societies forms the Europhysics Letters Association.

The journal is jointly published by EPS, IOP Publishing, EDP Sciences, and SIF

Articles (Letters and Perspective Papers) submitted to EPL should be high-quality articles describing new results, ideas, concepts, experimental methods, theoretical treatments, etc. and should be of broad interest to the physics community. The publications should satisfy the specialist yet remain understandable to researchers in other fields.

In 2022, EPL published 382 articles with an acceptance rate of 37%, some of them in Open Access. The Impact Factor (2022) is 1.8. EPL reaches over 3000 scientific institutions around the world. A large range of subscription methods includes individual subscriptions, IOP packs, consortia agreements and IOPscience licences. The BoD has committed significant investment to develop EPL into a leading global physics letters journal with high impact and visibility.

Editor-in-Chief

The EiC is a key role and the person appointed needs to be a recognised authority and leading researcher in a field of physics, and have:

- Strong interpersonal skills and leadership ability
- Broad knowledge and interest in physics and its frontiers
- Extensive network and be influential in the physics community
- Experience of the publishing process for physics journals as member of an Editorial Board or in other senior editorial positions
- Extensive publications record

The EiC should be committed to the vision of growing EPL into a serious and attractive alternative to other competing journals.

They are normally appointed for a term of three and a half years.

Role and responsibilities

The main terms of the position are as follow:

The EiC

- acts as an ambassador for the Journal and raises its profile worldwide.
- promotes the Journal in the research community and encourages submissions from potential and existing authors and readers.
- informs the Executive Editor of trends and latest developments in scientific research and of matters related to the publishing landscape, competitor titles or other publishing initiatives.
- supports the Journal by submitting some of his own best work and writes editorials, when appropriate.
- is responsible, within the limits laid down by EPS, for the scientific content and quality of the Journal and its development
- is supported currently by a panel of 3 Deputy Editors (DE) and an international Editorial Board (EB) of 60 Co-Editors (CE). The handling of articles is carried out by the Editorial Office at EPS.
- appoints physicists to act as DE and CE following approval of recommendations by the EPS Executive Committee, ensuring a well-balanced subject spread and geographical coverage. DEs assist in the organisation of the editorial work, by being the first contact to a set of CEs, based on subject. CEs play a major role in the peer review process, selecting referees, taking publication decisions, and like the EiC, encouraging submission of high-quality articles and submitting their own articles to EPL. The EB members act as ambassadors and advise on ways to expand the coverage and quality of EPL.
- ensures that appropriate plans are in place for well-balanced subject coverage in modern physics, optimal editorial processes and procedures in agreement with the EPLA BoD and EPS.
- chairs meetings of the EB, taking place either in-person or ‘virtual’ online.
- is responsible for dispute resolution regarding manuscripts and can be helped in this task by the DEs and the CEs.
- assists where necessary the Executive Editor in cases of alleged scientific misconduct according to the rules set by the Committee on Publishing Ethics (COPE).

In addition, the EiC advises EPLA Board of Directors on the Editorial Policy of the journal, aided in these tasks by the Executive Editor. The EiC, together with the Executive Editor, reports on editorial developments and performance of the journal, based on data and statistics provided by the EPL Staff Editor. He/she represents the journal at conferences and other events, aided by the Executive Editor.

Commitment

The EiC should be fully committed to the vision of the Journal, working with the Directors, the Executive Editor and EPS Editorial Office staff. He/she should be prepared to devote a considerable amount of time and attend the following meetings:

- EPLA Board of Directors (two or three per year, one in person the rest online)
- EPS Executive Committee (one or two per year)
- EPS Council (one per year, in person)

- EPL Editorial Board (Once per term in person. Virtual meetings with new Co-editors once or twice per year)
- Meetings with Deputy Editors, when needed
- Meetings on new policies, when needed.
- Regular visits to the Editorial Office in Mulhouse.
- Regular visits to scientific conferences around the world to represent the journal

Benefits

The EiC receives an annual honorarium. A bonus for outstanding performance may be added at the discretion of the BoD. Travel and subsistence expenses while on EPL business are reimbursed.

The Executive Editor, the Staff Editor, and the EPS Secretariat are available for technical and secretarial support.

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