

## ■ From the editors' desk

We think that the Bulletin is a valuable tool that helps keep our UV4Plants community together. As we make progress in our aim of building a global role for the association, the Bulletin will help more members learn to know each other (meet-a-member, profiles). Current restrictions to international travel and lock-downs due to the pandemic make this role of the Bulletin even more important. Our Bulletin also informs about activities of our association such as conferences and workshops, past and future. It provides tutorials about methods, guidelines for design of experiments and minimum requirements for reproducibility which are important for achieving UV4Plants' contribution to encouraging good quality and useful UV-research. Book, software and equipment reviews can members's decisions. Very importantly, the Bulletin also provides a forum where to express opinions and viewpoints. Publishing all this content under-open access and in a publication with long-term archival practice not only helps members but advertises the existence of our association. To better fulfil these roles, changes to this Bulletin have been implemented.

We (Marcel Jansen, Titta Kotilainen and Pedro Aphalo) discussed several months how to improve the functioning of the Bulletin's "editorial office" and made a proposal to the UV4Plants management committee, which was accepted. At the time we were facing operational problems that prevented timely publication. The use of our time was not efficient, section editors found it difficult to use the editorial user interface of OJS and the spread of responsibilities across multiple section editors made tracking of the progress of submissions through the work flow very difficult. Pedro did no longer have enough free time to take care of the three roles of acquisitions editor, handling editor and production editor (typesetting and publication). Of the sections editors only Marcel, Titta, and Matt played very active roles in the most recently published issues of the Bulletin but they had been lacking clearly assigned "official" roles.

In the new scheme responsibility for editorial decisions about acceptance/revision/rejection are shared by the three editors, who consult each other in unclear cases. In addition the following changes to the allocation of tasks to editors and to the handling of manuscripts were implemented earlier this year:

1. Three editors do all editorial management. We no longer have section editors.
2. The tasks of the editors are split according to the work flow instead of subject sections: Marcel Jansen as acquisitions editor, Titta K. Kotilainen as handling editor and Pedro J. Aphalo as production editor and administrator for the OJS server.
3. Section editors became members of the new editorial review board.
4. Instructions and messages in our on-line manuscript submission system were revised for clarity.
5. We aim at faster manuscript turn-around with the help of reviewers.

Several changes to the Bulletin itself have been implemented starting from the

present issue.

- a. Page layout changed from two-columns to one-column to make the Bulletin easier to read on screen.
- b. Fewer sections with a broader scope: Commentaries, Reports, Articles, Doctoral thesis abstracts, Book, software and equipment reviews.
- c. Introduce the use of thematic categories (currently 12) as a classification orthogonal to sections.
- d. Two regular columns: Meet-a-Member (hosted by Marcel A. K. Jansen) and Hints and Tips (hosted/written by Pedro J. Aphalo).
- e. The Bulletin will be published twice per year, in June and December.

We invite manuscript submissions for upcoming issues, both from members of our association and non-members. We hope you will find that the changes described above are an improvement, but if not, or if you have suggestions about how to make the Bulletin more useful or attractive to both readers and authors, please, do send your feedback to us at <mailto:bulletin@uv4plants.org>.

Wishing you enjoyable and instructive reading,

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Cork, Helsinki, and Joensuu, August 2020.

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