

Editorial

The First Seven Years (2013-2019) of *Life: The Excitement of Biology*

Jorge A. Santiago-Blay¹

This is my annual summary of the major developments of *Life: The Excitement of Biology*, emphasizing 2019. Half a year ago, I had begun this editorial as follows: “Today is October 13, 2019, the farthest behind *LEB* has been all of these years, and although I am not happy about that, there is some good news to share.” Then, I stopped writing. And like in so many facets of life, what a change a few months can bring! We are caught up! The fastest ever in my 20 years as editor. Instead of summarizing main accomplishments right of the bat, this time, I am inclined to describe what we do in *LEB*.

What do we try to do in Life: The Excitement of Biology?

1. *Synthesize and innovate.* When an author submits a paper to *LEB*, I consider such contribution an act of creativity. It is my job, and that of the reviewers, to respectfully and constructively offer suggestions to improve the paper. All of us try to pivot fast, learn, and adapt rapidly by bringing our knowledge and skills into each act of creation that is submitted for possible publication in *Life: The Excitement of Biology*. Our ultimate goal is to synthesize ideas clearly as often innovation happens through collaborative sharing of thoughts and ideas.
2. *Foster intrinsic and purposeful motivation.* I try to encourage motivation as well as autonomy, leading to as complete a coverage of the subject matter as possible within the time frame the author may have. In other words, it is my hope that an author wants to create as contrasted to only needing to write (i.e., the carrot and stick approach).

What are some characteristics of Life: The Excitement of Biology?

LEB is a peer-reviewed, international, scientific quarterly journal with broad subject coverage, emphasizing biology. The vision of the journal is to provide the global scientific community as well as the broad public with diverse, high-quality, readable, and interesting articles on a wide variety of biological and related interdisciplinary scientific topics. The mission of *Life: The Excitement of Biology* is to promote broad understanding of all forms of life, such as

¹ 217 Wynwood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17402 USA. E-mail: blayjorge@gmail.com

bacteria, plants, fungi, animals, and others at all levels of the biological hierarchical organization, from the atomic to the biospheric. **LEB** also promotes understanding of the evolution of life, from its earliest records to its current manifestations on Earth – or elsewhere. In sum, ***Life: The Excitement of Biology*** aims to communicate in a style that is accessible to a wide audience and at the same time maintains academic rigor.

At the same time, I aim to provide fast and constructive replies to authors. Working with authors in a helpful, optimistic, and collaborative spirit, ***Life: The Excitement of Biology*** tries to be varied and it welcomes papers that are novel or that discuss topics that may be considered controversial. Instead of being high-tech, I provide personalized service in a low-tech, accessible, friendly atmosphere. The journal is packaged in such a way to make it colorful and attractive. As Editor-in-Chief, I enjoy providing opportunities to all authors who may have something to say about a topic pertaining to sciences, especially biology. Although the style of **LEB** is fairly standard, I do offer choices to authors to accommodate them as much as possible. Also, from time to time, I try to inject a playful note, such as cartoons and interesting photos.

Accomplishments during 2019

- 1. Impact Factor from Research Gate and dramatic increase in the number of visits.** As best as I can estimate, in the spring of 2019, **LEB** was awarded an impact factor by Research Gate.
- 2. Increased indexing and referencing.** ***Life: The Excitement of Biology*** continues to be indexed and its published articles detected by *Biosis*, *Biological Abstracts*, *CAB Abstracts*, *Google Scholar*, *Research Gate*, and others. In addition, also in early 2019, the number of units abstracting and/or indexing **LEB** multiplied several fold such that now dozens of such units detect the journal, <https://blaypublishers.com/> . Blay Publishers LLC continues participating in CrossRef and, as a consequence, papers published in ***Life: The Excitement of Biology*** have a digital object identifier (doi) and as many of the references as possible are endowed with a doi enabling readers to rapidly find references cited in the literature cited portion of papers.
- 3. Increased number of hits in our “web page”.** Although I cannot attribute causality, shortly after the awarding of an impact factor, the number of visits in the journal’s “web page” began increasing dramatically, from 500-1,000 visits per month to 2,000-8,000 visits per month.
- 4. Increased Internationalization.** A few more scholars joined the Board of Editors of ***Life: The Excitement of Biology*** during 2019 replacing several colleagues who can no longer help us. Currently, the board has over 100 members representing over 40 countries worldwide. As usual, I am constantly

looking for competent colleagues from any area of biology and wholeheartedly welcome scholars from countries less represented in the Board of Editors.

5. “**Responsive**” **Presence via Social Media.** *Life: The Excitement of Biology* retains a strong digital presence through, *WordPress*, its digital carrier at <https://blaypublishers.com> . Also, **LEB** maintains a regular presence, particularly through email, *Facebook*, *LinkedIn*, and *Twitter*, among others.

6. **Constantly Improving.** Authors, reviewers, subscribers, and members of the boards of *Life: The Excitement of Biology* continue suggesting improvements to the journal many of which we have incorporated. This editor insists that all scientific papers submitted to **LEB** be peer-reviewed while colleagues doing the reviews are encouraged to be careful, constructive, and as fast as possible. It is essential the authors take at heart the suggestions of reviewers and do not ignore alternative scientific explanations for the events they are trying to explain.

All of these continue helping **LEB** gain visibility among the communities of scholars and the broader public. The support of Wolf Printing of York, Pennsylvania (USA), printers of the hard copy version of *Life: The Excitement of Biology* as well as *WordPress*, carrier of the digital version of **LEB** and their friendly and helpful online staff members deserve a special recognition.

Please, feel free to spread the word about *Life: The Excitement of Biology* and its high quality, fast publication, and editorial helpfulness. I hope all of you join me in a wonderful voyage of discovery during 2020 and years to come.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Jorge Santiago-Blay

Jorge Santiago-Blay, Ph.D.

Editor-in-Chief, *Life: The Excitement of Biology*

E-mail: blaypublishers@gmail.com

Facebook: Jorge A. Santiago-Blay

LinkedIn: Jorge Santiago-Blay

Twitter: @blayjorge

Tumblr: Life The Excitement of Biology

WordPress: <https://blaypublishers.com/>