

## Looking forward to the next five years with EJSME

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As incoming editors for The Electronic Journal for Research in Science and Mathematics Education (EJSME) we worked closely with Drs. Mark Bloom and Sarah Quebec Fuentes to understand both the history and vision of the journal. As Mark and Sarah described in their [outgoing editorial](#), there are many accomplishments to celebrate as we look back. As an editorial team, we have identified three areas of focus for our first year with EJSME: to streamline the peer review process, respond and adapt to the increasing use and possibilities of generative AI, and promote the publication of special issues.

### Our Editorial and Review Team

During our transition into our new roles, we have benefitted greatly from the assistance of our Associate Editors, many of whom have stayed on to carry forward the work of the journal. We are deeply grateful to those individuals for their commitment and service! For the unfamiliar, Associate Editors are the on-the-ground managers of submitted manuscripts. They secure peer reviewers and synthesize the feedback from the peer review process. It's essential work, and we welcome additional dedicated individuals who might be interested in serving in this role. If you would like to apply to be an Associate Editor of EJSME, please do so [HERE](#).

Additionally, no journal would exist without the work of dedicated reviewers. Every manuscript that is sent out for review is assessed by at least two anonymous peer reviewers. This is no small amount of work, and we want to thank the reviewers who have upheld the quality of EJSME over the years.

One of our goals over the next year is to further streamline and improve the peer review process for all involved. One important change in this regard is our recently established Editorial Review Board (ERB) for the journal, and you can see the full list our ERB members [here](#). While these are not the *only* scholars who review manuscripts for the journal, they are the “core” group of individuals who maintain the quality of our review process. Creating an ERB establishes a more formal role for those reviewers who have been serving the journal for years. It is also a way to bring on new scholars who wish to contribute to our ongoing work at EJSME. If this is something that interests you, please consider joining our ERB by applying [HERE](#).

## Responding to the Generative AI Landscape

A pressing issue that we have been grappling with and have taken up as an editorial team is the question of Generative AI. Whatever one's thoughts on the acceleration of generative AI technologies (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, etc.), there is no question that they have had an impact on scholarship. As editors, we recognize the ways that scholars in our field might put those technologies to productive use. We also recognize the challenges that they pose to the processes of research production, dissemination, and review.

Perhaps the clearest positive use for Generative AI is for researchers whose first language is not English. EJRSME is an English-language journal that also serves an international group of authors and readers. This naturally creates challenges for many who wish to contribute their work to the journal. We recognize the ways that Generative AI technologies can assist with translation and support the readability and clarity of written work.

At the same time, these technologies have been designed to “assist” with far more than translation and small-scale editing tasks. They can generate whole manuscript sections, produce (often spurious) citations, and more. Manuscripts composed primarily by Generative AI can appear plausible at a glance, but synthetic text is not a meaningful contribution to our knowledge of STEM teaching and learning. Academic journals are meant to facilitate communication between *human* researchers, not be an outlet for machine-generated text.

As an editorial team, we have tried to approach this landscape with care and have developed [a set of Generative AI Policies](#) that we believe recognize this technology's usefulness for authors while also treating it with appropriate caution. As these technologies continue to change, we acknowledge that our policies will likely need to be updated as well. We will continue to engage in dialogue about these issues with all those in our community, and we welcome the thoughts and feedback of our authors and readers, you can contact the journal at [ejrsmejournal@gmail.com](mailto:ejrsmejournal@gmail.com).

## Special Issues

As we move ahead, we are looking forward to highlighting the scholarly work of members of ICRSME and the global science and mathematics education community. Additionally, we are soliciting proposals for special issues of EJRSME. As an editor of a Special Issue, you will a) propose and define the scope of the special issue, b) prepare a call for manuscripts and identify potential contributors, c) assemble a team of associate editors and/or reviewers, d) manage the peer review process and e) write an editorial to introduce and contextualize the special issue. The EJRSME editorial team will be available to assist and guide you through the entire process. If you would like to serve as a Special Issue editor for EJRSME, please submit your proposal [HERE](#).