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Neurophysiology* Editors

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Answers to Some Frequently Asked Questions:

We often get questions from our authors, readers, and reviewers about our policies. Below are the answers to questions that we frequently receive:

1. Is there a charge for color figures?

There is no color charge if the first or last author of the manuscript is a **member of the American Physiological Society**, and color is necessary for the figure. Otherwise, the charge is \$400 per figure.

This is just one of **many good reasons** to join the American Physiological Society (the annual membership fee is half the price of a color figure). Other member benefits include: free online access to all **American Physiological Society journals**, availability of many **awards** including those for your trainees, support from a first-class **science policy** staff, and reduced costs for attending the Experimental Biology Meeting.

2. Can I join the American Physiological Society after my manuscript is accepted and get free color figures?

No. You must be a member in good standing at the time your manuscript is *accepted* to take advantage of the free color benefit. Note that processing a membership application can take a few weeks, so send in your application well before your paper is at the acceptance stage.

3. Why isn't the *Journal of Neurophysiology* an open access journal?

We are, in part. Our manuscripts are made free on the journal website a year after publication. At that point, they are open access. Within the first year, manuscripts are only available to subscribers (including members of the American Physiological Society), unless the author participates in the **AuthorChoice program**. By paying a fee, an author makes their article open access immediately.

Note that this publishing model is an amalgam between the traditional publication model (*paid through subscriber fees*) and the open access model (*paid through open access fees*). The author benefits economically, as their manuscript is open access after a year, and their publication costs are usually much lower than for an open access journal. For example, the cost for publishing a 10-page paper in *Journal of Neurophysiology* is \$800 (if there are no color charges) vs. \$1500 in *PlosOne*.

4. How long does it take to publish my manuscript after it is accepted?

We publish papers in two stages. The author-formatted version of the manuscript (**Articles in Press**) is published online and indexed in PubMed within a week of acceptance, and is available to all subscribers. With our new "**Continuous Publication**" program, the final, typeset version of the article is usually published within three months. We are striving to reduce this time even further.

5. Does the *Journal of Neurophysiology* publish special journal issues?

Yes and no. We publish special *virtual* journal issues called "**Collections**." There is a great advantage to doing this model over traditional "special issues," in that articles are added to a **Collection** immediately after acceptance, and are available to all readers. "Special issues" require holding some papers for a considerable period after acceptance, until all the manuscripts for the issue are ready for publication. Since most readers now access journal content online, a "virtual" special journal issue (**Collection**) is a practical alternative to conventional journal special issues.

6. Can I post my manuscript on a file sharing site like ResearchGate?

You are welcome and encouraged to share a link to articles on the **official Journal website**. However, unless you participate in **author choice**, most authors sign over their copyright to the publisher. Until we make your article open access a year after publication, it is a violation of the copyright agreement (*i.e., a violation of law*) to post your manuscript on an open access site.

This restriction is in place for a good reason. We, like most journals, count on subscription fees to defer most publication costs; this is why publishing your paper in the *Journal of Neurophysiology* is cheaper than for open access journals. Self-publication circumvents subscriptions, and thus ultimately harms the journal and our ability to keep publication costs low.

7. Where can I find information about submitting a paper to the *Journal of Neurophysiology*?

A general information page for submissions to all the American Physiological Society journals is available at **this link**. The Editor also maintains **a website** that provides specific submission requirements for the *Journal of Neurophysiology*, including a special manuscript categories, including **NeuroForum** and **Rapid Reports**.

8. How are manuscripts assigned for review?

Authors have the ability to designate an **Editor** and reviewers to handle their manuscript. In general, we honor these suggestions *unless* a conflict of interest is present (*an author has an active or recent collaboration with the Editor or reviewer, they are in the same Department, they have co-authored a manuscript in the past three years, they have a mentor-trainee relationship in the past 5 years*). If any such conflicts are discovered, the Editor/reviewer suggested by the authors is disqualified. Note that we are careful to identify such conflicts.

Authors also have the purview of disqualifying Editors or reviewers they believe would not treat their article fairly. We honor these requests.

Of course, the reviewers or Editor suggested by authors may not be available, in which case alternates are solicited. We seek the most senior experts to handle manuscripts, particularly members of our **Editorial Board**.

9. Who can I turn to for help?

Unlike many journals, the *Journal of Neurophysiology* uses a dedicated staff to manage our operations. Different individuals are in charge depending on the stage of your manuscript.

To get immediate help, contact one of the following individuals:

- Manuscript submission/uploading papers to the editorial website: *Miriam Capers, Peer Review Coordinator* (mcapers@the-aps.org)
- Manuscript review/editorial policies/presubmission approval for NeuroForum and Reviews: *Bill Yates, Editor-in-Chief* (jnpeditor@the-aps.org)
- Manuscript production/concerns about proofs/page charges: *Maria Pasho, Journal Supervisor* (mpasho@the-aps.org)

Our Collections are Growing!

In March, we instituted our "**Collections**." Collections are virtual journal issues comprised of articles submitted for **Calls for Manuscripts**. As soon as a manuscript submitted for a Call is published in a journal issue, it will be added to the appropriate **Collection**. After a Collection is finalized, an editorial will be published regarding its contents. This publication model allows us to make articles submitted for Calls available to authors as soon as possible.

Check out our Collections:

- **Neurobiology of Deep Brain Stimulation**
- **Decision Making: Neural Mechanisms**
- **Correlating Neuronal Activity and Neural Imaging**
- **Neuronal Diversity: Categorizing Types of Neurons**
- **Neurophysiology of Tactile Perception: A Tribute to Steven Hsiao**
- **Neurological Disease and Autonomic Dysfunction**
- **Control of Autonomic Function: Insights from Neurophysiological Studies in Conscious Animals (Including Humans)**

Add your manuscript to a Collection by submitting it for a **Call for Manuscripts**, including our recently-issued Calls (*manuscripts due January 1, 2016*):

- **Active Sensing**
- **Neurological Disease and Autonomic Dysfunction**
- **Methods to Understand Brain Connections and Neural Function**

New Editor Website Launched

The **Editor-in-Chief** has recently launched a **new website** to provide authors and readers of the *Journal of Neurophysiology* with links for information, including the following:

- **Collections of Articles accepted for Calls for Manuscripts**
- **Archive of NeuroForum Articles**
- **Archive of Innovative Methodology Articles**
- **Archive of Rapid Reports Articles**
- **Current Calls for Manuscripts**
- **Newsletter Archives**
- **Journal Facebook Page**
- **Journal Twitter Page**
- **Guidelines for Composing and Submitting an Article**
- **Special Guidelines for Rapid Reports Submissions**
- **Special Guidelines for NeuroForum Submissions**

Bookmark this website for convenient access to information about the Journal, and **let us know** if other information should be added.