

# Improving Manuscript Transfers for Authors

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ChronosHub



# Presenting today



**Romy Beard**

Head of Publisher Relations  
**ChronosHub**



**James Butcher**

Founder  
**Journalology**



**Melissa Patterson**

Director of Editorial Development  
**AIP Publishing**



**Catherine Goodman**

Senior Associate Publisher  
**American Chemical Society**

# Agenda

**01** ●

**Introduction**

**02** ●

**Presentations**

**03** ●

**Discussion**

**04** ●

**What's Next**

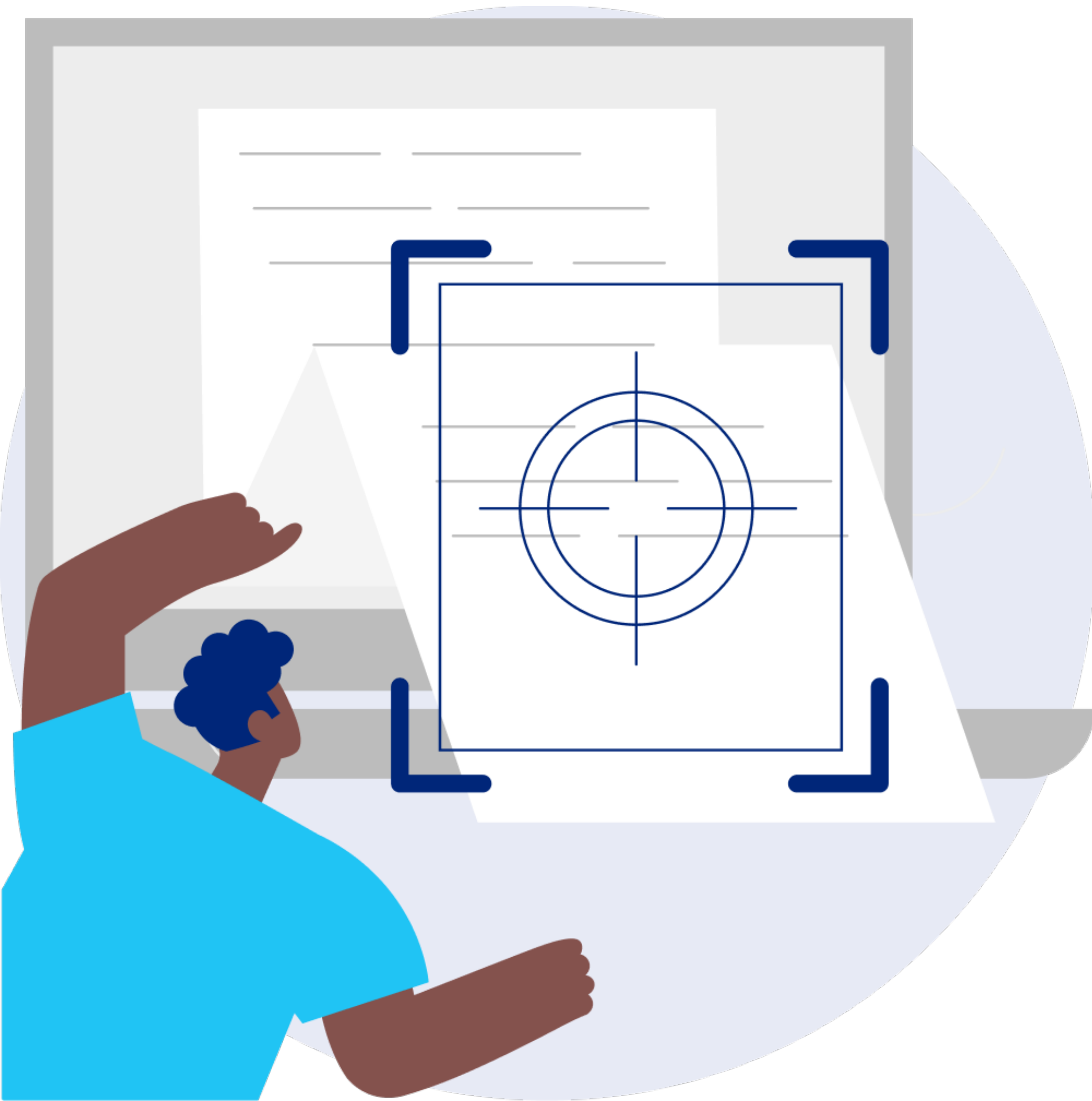
# Introduction



# What is a Manuscript Transfer?

- Specific to journal publishing
- An author has been offered the option to transfer their originally submitted manuscript from one journal to another journal
- Often labeled as a “reject with transfer” decision, this can happen at editorial review stage, or after peer review
- Transfers tend to happen between journals by the same publisher

# Why Are Authors Offered a Transfers?



Quality

Scope

# Routes to Transfer

## Route 1 - Publisher Driven:

- Author is offered a transfer to one or more specific journals
- Author accepts and completes the transfer
- This happens within the peer review system

## Route 2 - Author Driven:

- Author selects alternative journal at initial submission or after “reject with transfer” decision from the publisher
- (Editor/staff in new journal accepts request to transfer)
- This might not be within the peer review system – f.ex. SAGE Journal Recommender, Springer Nature Transfer Desk

# Challenges with Journal Transfers

## 1. Determining the destination journal

Less of an issue for smaller sized publishers and with cascade workflow in place

## 2. Technical aspect of actual transfer of files (metadata, reviewer comments, etc.)

Different submission form requirements

Author might change the MS before going to the new journal

## 3. Author proceeding with transfer (accepting & completing it)

Issues with the process

Do publishers provide enough information about the new journals?



# Author Concerns

The process time is consuming/inefficient

Transfers to a 'sister' OA journal that charges APCs without being told




 **Dr Mary Abigail De Vera** 🇨🇦🇵🇪  
@maryadevera

[#RxWritingChallenge](#) Day 3. I try to keep grunts to myself but:  
-paper rejected  
-did not think review was fair (2 reviewers, 1 comment each)  
-sent appeal  
-reply was "decision was [not rejection] but offer to transfer to sibling open-access journal"


No writing got done today 😡

9:25 PM · Mar 24, 2021

 **Colleen Naughton, PhD. (she\her\hers)**  
@naughtoncc


Journal asks you to transfer and gives you two journal choices, you choose one and write a new cover letter and update the manuscript and submit...only the next day to ask you to transfer to the other one. 🤔

1:33 AM · Feb 16, 2022

 **Karen Troy**  
@Troy\_BiomechLab

Yet another manuscript that is rejected by the mainstream journal, with an offer to transfer to the sister (open access/ charges an APC) journal. How do you all feel about this trend in publishing? Is this just a scheme for publishers to make more \$ or do we need more journals?

6:30 PM · Oct 21, 2022

 **Juan A. Balbuena**  
@JA\_Balbuena

On desk rejection: Editor offers transfer to sister journal. Is it mentioned that sister journal is OA, publication fees over 2K bucks? ... ..No, nei, niet, ez, 9

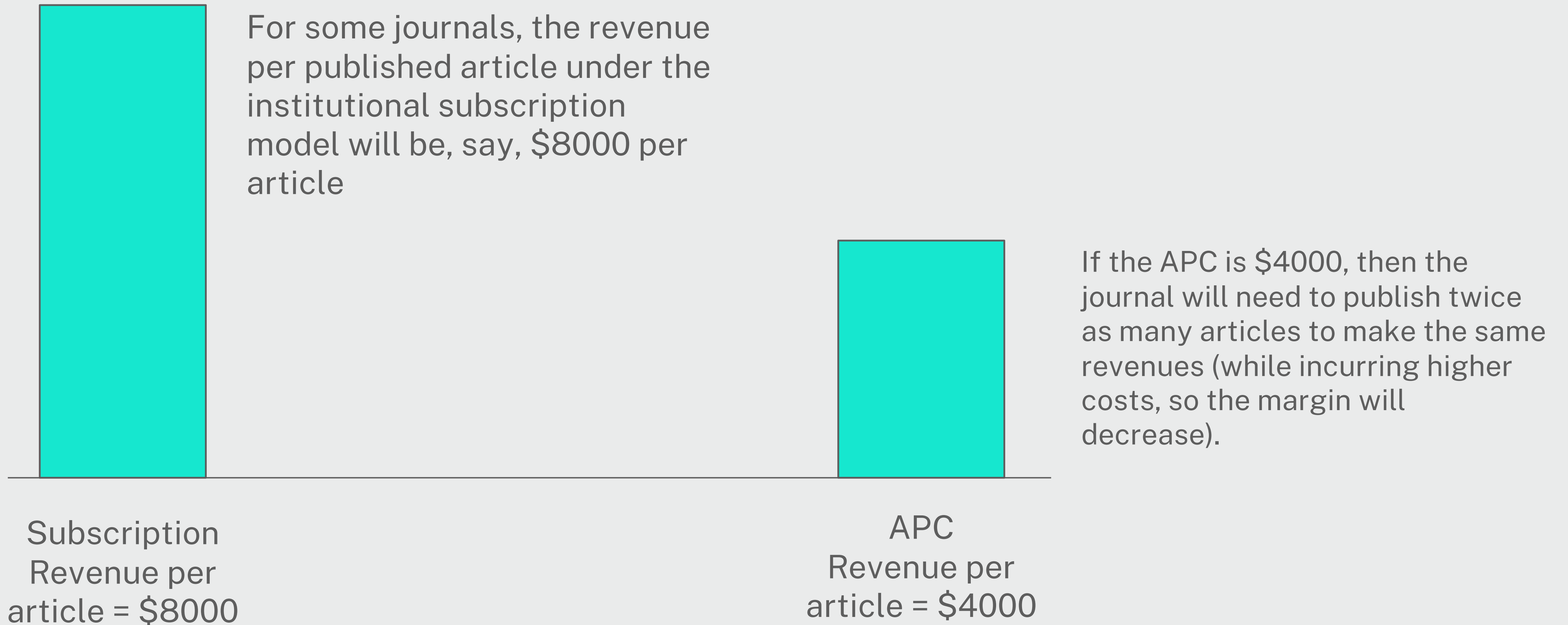
2:20 PM · Jun 22, 2022

Tweets about author concerns regarding manuscript transfers (Source: <https://twitter.com/>)

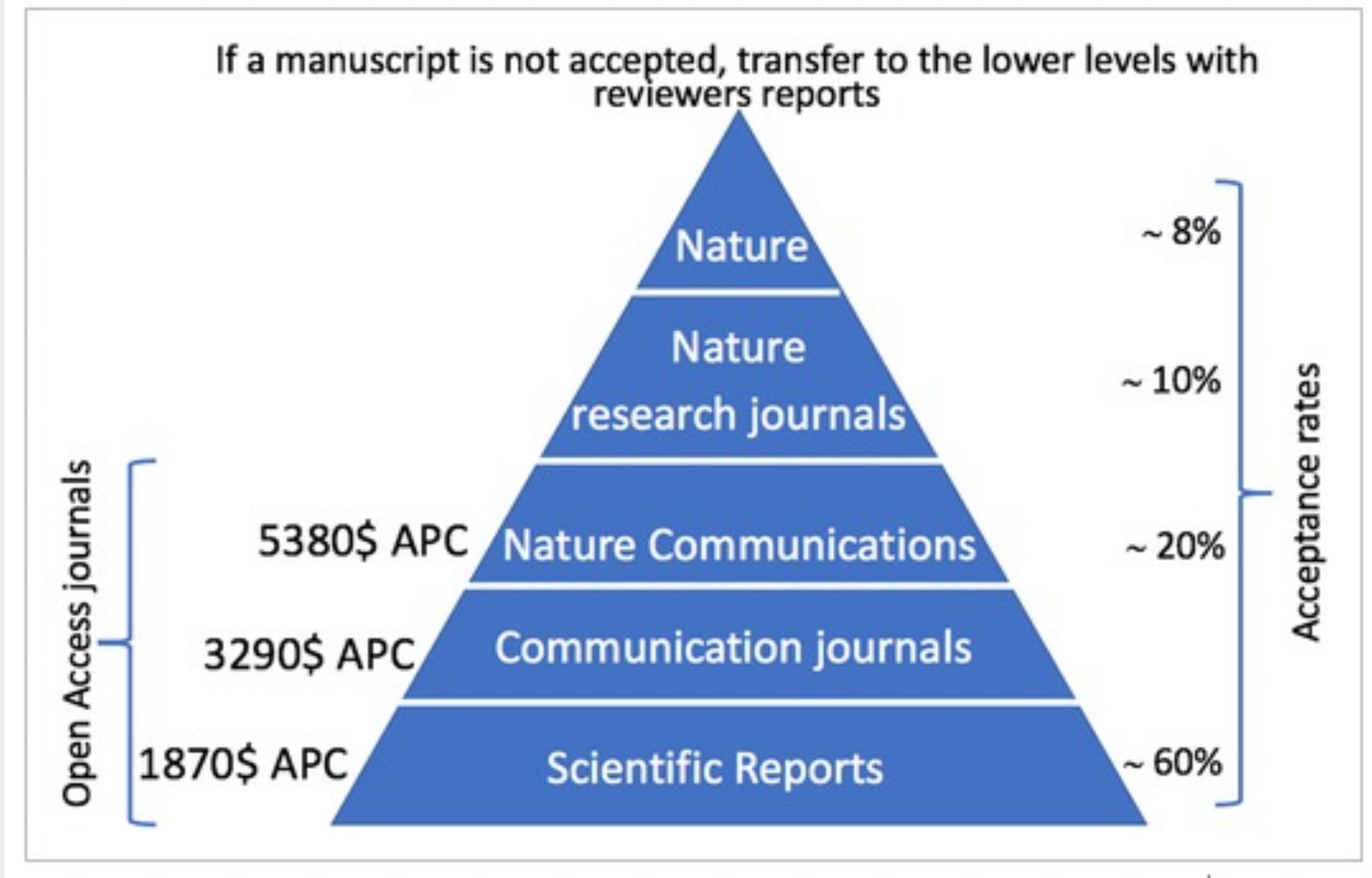


James Butcher  
**JOURNALOLOGY**

# Revenue per published article is the key metric



# Publisher portfolios: transfer cascades



More publishers are developing transfer cascades.

Retaining a higher proportion of submitted papers helps to share costs across multiple journals.

Transfer cascades can also reduce the reviewer burden, if done properly.

Launching new journals can protect the selectivity of flagship journals.

# How to measure success (KPIs)

- Revenue per submission
- % of papers offered a transfer
- % of papers where the author agreed to transfer
- % of papers that are peer reviewed
- % of papers that are accepted
- Author satisfaction (do authors submit new papers?)

All of these KPIs depend on the editors across the transfer cascade working as a team.

This is easier said than done.

Editors should prioritise what's best for their authors and for the wider portfolio.



# Melissa Patterson

**AIP PUBLISHING**

# AIP Publishing Transfer Program – Philosophy

With our transfer program, we aim to retain good research and provide authors the **best possible home** for their article.

- What does that look like?
  - Transfers among our titles are **easy and seamless** – article information is automatically sent to transfer journal including reviews.
  - Our authors know there is a home for their paper at AIPP, whether in the journal they first submit to or the **one we recommend**.
  - **Editors collaborate** to find the best home for a paper, whether that is in service to their journal or another AIPP title.
    - We enable this through consults in our peer review system so Editors can agree on a value offer to the author – guaranteed peer review or provisional acceptance.
  - All Editors can directly accept a paper into our broad scope journal *AIP Advances*.



*We envision a collaborative, unified portfolio working together in service of our author's best interests.*

# Where we have focused – Editor Engagement



## Transfer Program Advisory Board

Team of the EiCs and key editors that we meet with to collect feedback and discussion project initiatives



## Attending AE meetings

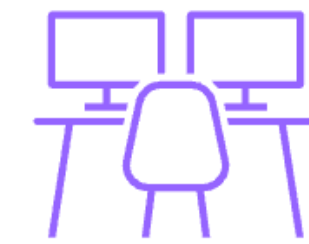
Connecting with the full team of editors on the transfer program and how their journals fit in

Opportunity for editors to ask questions and provide feedback on the workflows



## Scope Education

Educating Editors on the scope of other journals so they are well informed and can make recommendations that align with the subject area of the manuscript

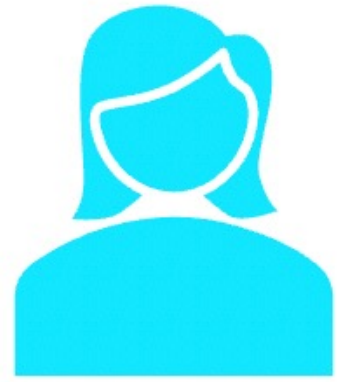


## Training

Modules for new and current editors on the transfer workflow and philosophy



# What we're working on – Author Focus



## Author Initiated

Building out the capability for authors to select alternate journals they would be willing to transfer to and honoring those requests.



## Reduce Friction

Streamline journal submission requirements so authors can seamlessly transfer without formatting changes



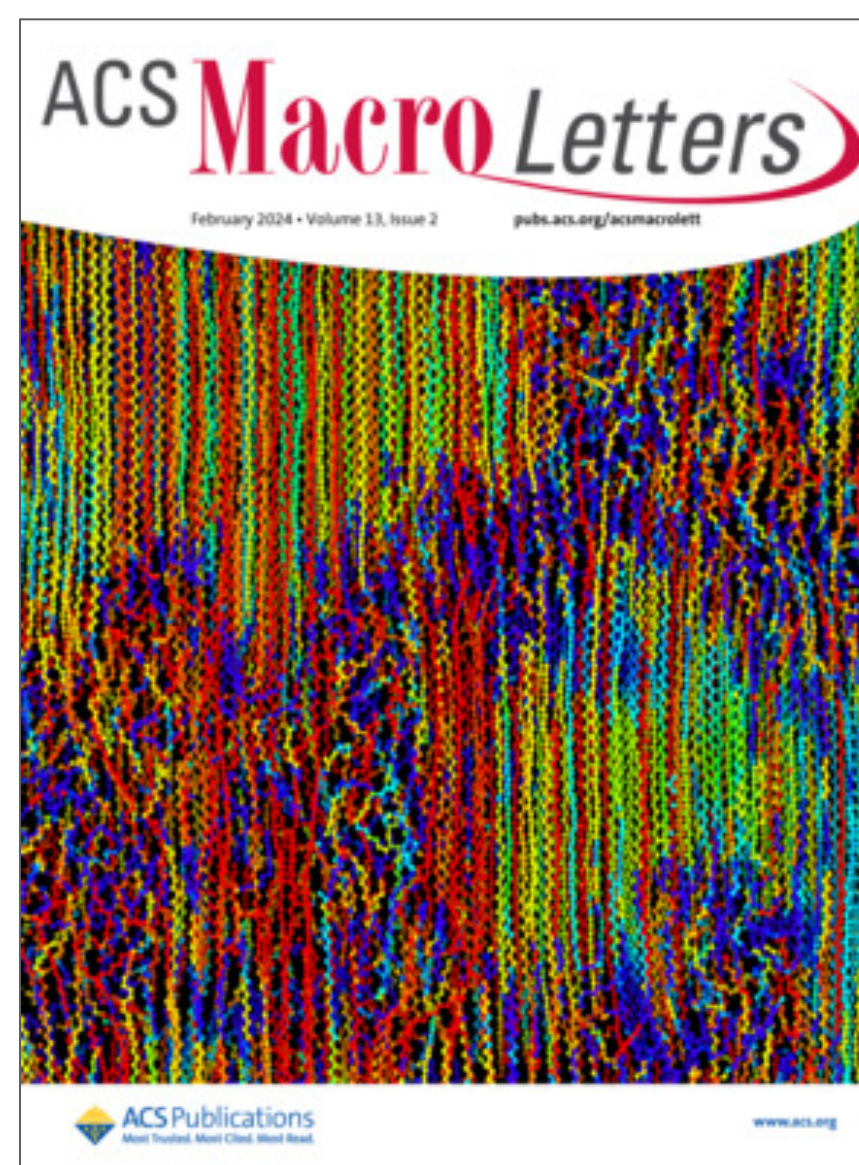
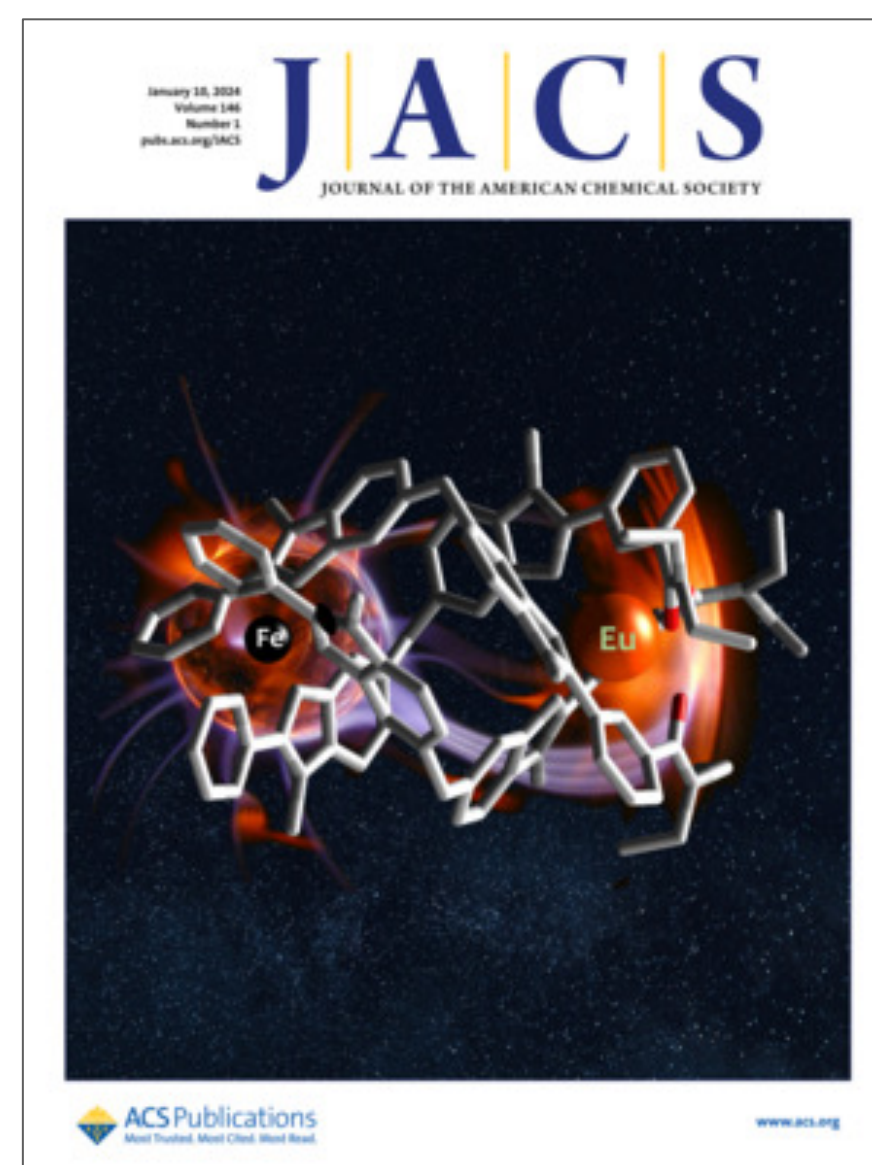
## Double Rejection

This can sometimes be unavoidable. If we can reduce it, we should. We must aim to provide a good and comprehensive explanation as to why the article has been rejected (again).



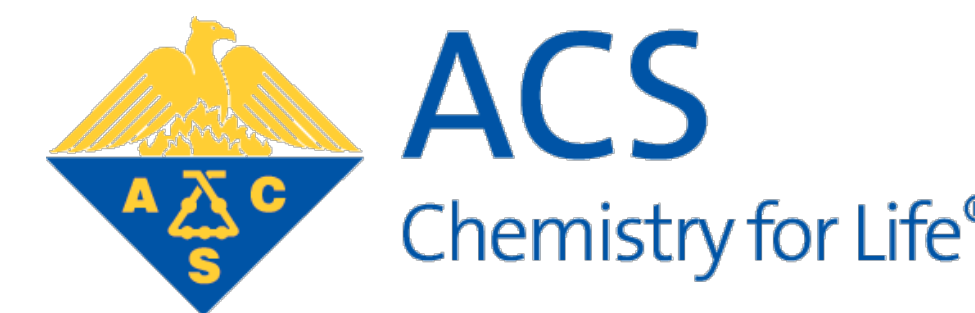
Catherine Goodman  
**AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY**

# ACS Publications



- Networks of transfer pathways connect journals where scopes (and other factors) intersect
- Transfer offers can be single destination or multiple via “Author Selects”

# Transfer as an author service



- Editors are encouraged to be “author-centric” – if their journal is not the right home, they should help the authors find the right community
- Editors can consult across journals to ensure fit for scope and beyond
- Multiple tools and metrics inform editors about other journals and guide thoughtful recommendations
- Our team of Development Editors is specialized in connecting researchers to their next best destination

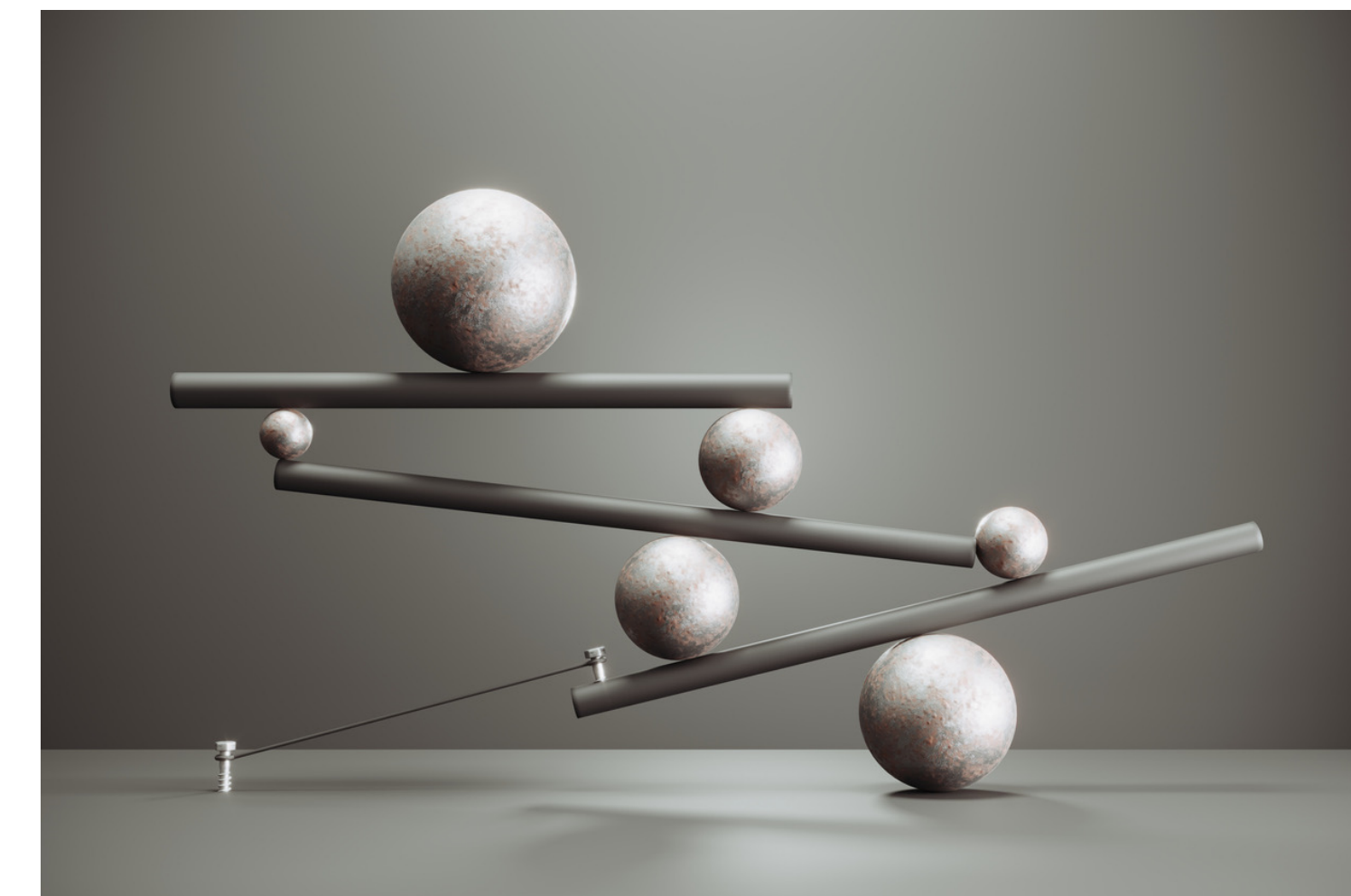
# Ongoing challenges



Helping a dynamic team of editors keep on top of shifts in other journal's priorities/scopes



Authors having a different route in mind



Balancing editorial independence of individual journals and goal of providing authors a home at ACS

# Discussion and Q&A



# Newsletter & Events List

The screenshot shows the ChronosHub website header with navigation links: About Us, Services, News, Stories, Events, Contact, Free Demo, and Get started. Below the header is a 'Subscribe' section with the text 'Subscribe to our newsletter, event list or both right here!'. The main content area features a 'Newsletter Sign Up' form with the following fields: Full Name\*, Email\*, Organization, and Job title. A 'Sign up' button is located at the bottom of the form. To the right of the form, there is a paragraph of text: 'Are you a researcher, publisher, funder, or otherwise involved in the research publishing landscape? Sign up for our newsletter to stay informed on the latest developments in research publishing, open access complexities, customer case stories, future webinars, events, and more. We only send out our newsletter once a month and promise to never send you anything else.'

Sign up for our newsletter to stay informed on the latest developments in research publishing, open access complexities, customer case stories, future webinars, events, and much more.

We only send out our newsletter once a month—less is much more.

## Newsletter & Event list

<https://chronoshub.io/subscribe/>

## Event list

<https://chronoshub.io/events/>

# Upcoming Events

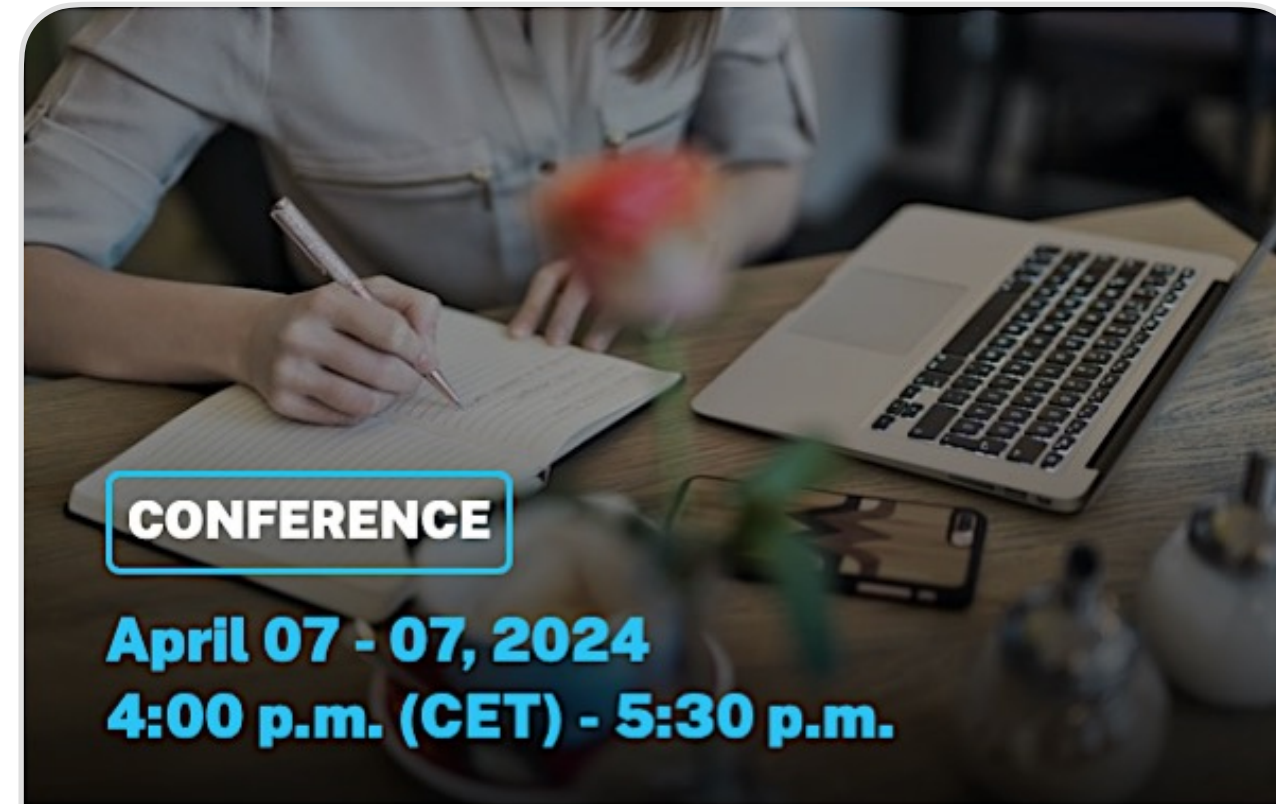


**WEBINAR**

**March 21, 2024**  
**4:00 p.m. (CET) / 10:00 a.m. (EST)**

## **Author Engagement Outside of the Publishing Process**

Who are your authors, and when and how should publishers engage with them? In this webinar, we'll talk about how to better engage with authors outside of the publishing workflow to help create an a...



**CONFERENCE**

**April 07 - 07, 2024**  
**4:00 p.m. (CET) - 5:30 p.m.**

## **Join Us for a Networking Excursion: A Journey of Connection with ChronosHub**

We are thrilled to introduce a unique networking event exclusively for publishers and institutions. This gathering aims to unite professionals, innovators, and industry thought leaders from the pub...



# Guest Speakers Contacts



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