

# Letter to Editors

Frontiers in Bioscience is proudly announcing creation of a global editorial board. The board is comprised of an elite group of dedicated scientists and educators who share the commitment of Frontiers in Bioscience to science, education and research. I created Frontiers in Bioscience two decades ago as a platform to disseminate science and to support cutting edge research across our globe. Frontiers in Bioscience is the first electronic journal that was formed and was indexed from the outset by the National Library of Medicine. In a letter, NLM stated

March 3, 1997

Dear Dr. Tabibzadeh:

The National Library of Medicine uses an advisory committee, the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee, composed of authorities knowledgeable in the field of biomedicine, such as physicians, researchers, educators, editors, health science librarians, and historians, to review and recommend the journal titles NLM should index. The Committee recently completed a review of journals for possible inclusion in the National Library of Medicine's MEDLARS system. I am pleased to inform you that Frontiers in Bioscience has been selected to be indexed and included in Index Medicus and MEDLINE on the MEDLARS system. Databases in the MEDLARS system are available online in the U.S. and throughout the world. Citations from the articles indexed, the indexing terms, and the English abstract printed in the journal will be included in the databases.

Sincerely,

Lois Ann Colaianni  
Executive Editor  
Index Medicus

With such a recognition, I accepted the responsibility to nominate a group of scientists who would act as managing editors to form the largest "Encyclopedia of Bioscience", a group of peer reviewed reviews that cover broad topics in medicine and biology. To this day, the encyclopedia collection encompasses over 6000 peer reviewed scholarly articles from scientists of many countries across the globe. Such an accomplishment would not have been feasible without the dedication of managing editors of the Frontiers in Bioscience that by now has grown to over 1000. The contents of Encyclopedia is accessed and used by faculty of most major universities in the US and many universities abroad.

Although, managing editors of the Frontiers in Bioscience have taken the responsibility to create the issues without any royalty, it is our mission to choose among these dedicated scientists those who will also serve as editors of the Frontiers in Bioscience and become more deeply involved with the missions of the Frontiers in Bioscience. Editors will be paid royalties for some of the work that they will carry out on behalf of the Frontiers in Bioscience as stated below.

We recently sent nomination letters to a small group of managing editors of the Frontiers in Bioscience and received an overwhelmingly positive response. We are just beginning to define the role of editors of Frontiers in Bioscience and to decipher the proper compensation for such efforts. We are encouraged by our first attempt to attract editors and hope others who might even have little time to also participate in such endeavors since they are worthy causes that help all scientists across the globe.

This document is created as a first draft and as a template that will be revised once the editors of Frontiers in Bioscience are chosen and have expressed their views and comments in support of the Frontiers in Bioscience missions.

I would like to thank all of the managing editors who find it in their heart the willingness to dedicate their time and effort as "**Editors of the Frontiers in Bioscience**" to a mission that allowed all of us to be involved in dissemination of science knowledge and who carry research in the pursuit of making a better world.

Cordially

Siamak Tabibzadeh, MD  
Editor-in-Chief  
Frontiers in Bioscience



# Editors' Initiatives

Editors of the Frontiers in Bioscience fulfill and meet certain selection criteria. Editors should be well known scientists in special fields of medicine and bioscience and who have extensive publication records of 50 or more, have a track history of peer reviewed grant funding and whose primary mission is research and education in the field of medicine and bioscience.

This year, we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Frontiers in Bioscience and we hope that with help of Frontiers in Bioscience editors expand the ways that Frontiers in Bioscience delivers and disseminates knowledge across the globe. Given that editors of the Frontiers in Bioscience are spread in many countries around the world, such an initiative would be feasible and expansion of the contents of Encyclopedia of Bioscience would be global in nature. The following is a draft of editor's initiatives. Editors would help towards reaching such a lofty goal and likely such initiatives would be further refined over time. Send further initiatives to [fbs@bioscience.org](mailto:fbs@bioscience.org).

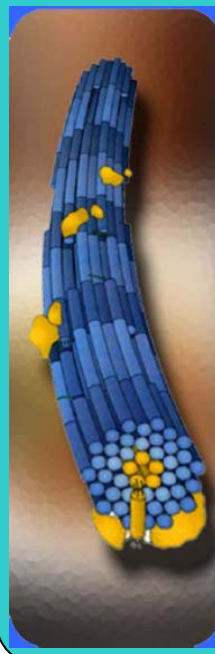
**Initiative 1. Call for Membership.** Call for membership including attracting Nobel Prize Winners or others who receive National or International prizes in recognition of their Scientific Achievements to join the editorial team of Frontiers in Bioscience. The merit of a journal is traditionally measured quantitatively by its impact factor. Two main ingredients that affect the impact factor are the caliber of the editors and the quality of articles that are published in the journal. Editors can greatly help in both fronts and contribute to the impact of the Frontiers in Bioscience by attracting well recognized scientists who either act as editors of the journal or submit papers for publication in the Frontiers in Bioscience.

**Initiative 2. Call for Papers.** Although Frontiers in Bioscience has been, by and large, publishing reviews in medicine and biology, we now wish to extend publication in the Frontiers in Bioscience to include primary research articles that are of the same caliber and impact as those that are published in *CELL*, *Nature* and *Science*. We need the help of editors to achieve this goal. Editors can invite researchers to publish such high impact articles in the Frontiers in Bioscience. Any such paper can be sent to the Frontiers in Bioscience for a one day impact determination and if the impact is found to be high, then, the cost of publication will be subsidized by the Frontiers in Bioscience. High impact articles of editors whether reviews or primary research articles can also be sent for a one day impact determination and if the impact is considered to be high, all the costs of publication will be subsidized by the Frontiers in Bioscience on behalf of the editor.

**Initiative 3. Creation of a Medical Blog, And Open Forum For Expression Of Opinions, Questions And Answers And Dialogue Among Scientists.** Science discoveries are occurring at a rapid pace around the world and those who are intimately involved in each branch of medicine or biology are likely to become aware of such breakthroughs. We encourage the editors to participate to write their opinions. Should sufficient number of our editors agree to carry such initiatives, we will create a specific forum for publication of these opinions. The format of such commentaries and opinions will follow the format published by *CELL* and the editor will receive a compensation for their participation in this forum.

**Initiative 4. Creation of Databases In Medicine And Biology That Would Benefit Researchers.** Editors are encouraged to deposit useful databases in the Frontiers in Bioscience. We have created such databases which can be accessed openly at <https://www.bioscience.org/references>. Depending on the wishes of the editor, the database can be open access or be accessible for a fee. If the module generates funds, the editor will receive the funds in a form of compensation.

**Initiative 5. Organizing National and International Conferences.** We encourage editors of the Frontiers in Bioscience to create national and international conferences on specific topics for one to three days in the US or the native country of the editor. Frontiers in Bioscience will provide the auditorium for such conferences in California. The auditorium is equipped with audiovisual equipments, and can accommodate up to 150 participants. Lunch can be served to the participants and accommodation can be arranged for participants in nearby hotels. Editors will receive a compensation for arranging such conferences. The editor will arrange and publish the abstracts and publications of annual conferences, meetings, and congresses. The publications of such events will be peer reviewed before publication by two referees.



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**Initiative 6. Local groups and Chapters with the banner of Frontiers of Bioscience.** These will have regional centers/offices, which could operate in a self-sustained manner with one of the Editor or group of Editors as the head. Some financial support can be given by Frontiers if required.

**Initiative 7. Creation of Educational Modules.** Editors who are educators can create and submit educational modules, videos, images or methodological techniques or other items to the scientists to be published at Frontiers in Bioscience Website. Depending on the wishes of the editor such modules will be open access or are accessible for a fee. If the modules generates revenue, the editor will receive the funds in a form of compensation. We have created such educational modules which can be accessed openly at <https://www.bioscience.org/references>

**Initiative 8. Devising Strategies to Increase the Visibility of Frontiers in Bioscience.** Although Frontiers in Bioscience has become a known global entity, we encourage the editors to increase such a visibility in the scientific community. Editors can offer approaches for such a initiative and will be provided with funds to reach to this end if the approach is sound and meritorious.

**Initiative 9. A forum for Publishing Abstracts and Publications from Conferences, Meeting, Congresses.** We encourage editors to create national and international conferences on specific topics for one to three days in the US or the native country of the editor. Frontiers in Bioscience will provide the auditorium for such conferences in the US. The auditorium is equipped with audiovisual equipments, and can accommodate up to 150 participants. Lunch can be served to the participants and accommodation can be arranged for participants in nearby hotels. Editors will receive a compensation for arranging such conferences.

**Initiative 10. Organizing Workshops.** An editor or group of editors in a region can organize a workshop on particular topic(s). If possible, Frontiers of Bioscience could provide some financial support if the work of the workshop is published.

**Initiative 11. Increasing membership to the Frontiers in Bioscience.** We encourage editors to get involved in raising the membership to the Frontiers in Bioscience through two avenues. First, for small institutions that have limited fund for a paid membership, Frontiers in Bioscience will provide complimentary membership for access of the entire content of the journal through recommendation of the editor. This only requires a letter of support from editor and requesting the librarian in charge of electronic access to contact Frontiers in Bioscience at [fbs@bioscience.org](mailto:fbs@bioscience.org) with their contact information as well as the IP addresses of their campus and then their selected institution will be granted access. Second, the editors can encourage larger institutions to subscribe to the Frontiers in Bioscience through a paid membership with a dual advantage both for the institution and the editor. The institution that participates in such "Editor Driven Membership" will receive up to 25% deduction of the membership fee and the editor will receive 10% of the revenue each year for so long that the institution continues their paid membership.

**Initiative 12. Promoting integrity in research and its publication.** Frontiers in Bioscience is committed to holding the highest standard of publishing and follows the guidelines set by "COPE ; Committees on publishing ethics". In support of such an initiatives, a group of selected group of editors participate in this endeavor regarding the codes of conduct and best practice guidelines of publishing as set by COPE (<https://publicationethics.org/resources/code-conduct> and <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1804120/>). Moreover, the same editors participate in cases of publications that might not have followed such practices.

**Initiative 13. Increasing University Membership to Access the Frontiers in Bioscience Content.** The success of any publication is in its readership which drives the citations of manuscripts published by the journal. This, in turn, leads to improvement in the impact and other factors that increase the importance of publications. The overall increase in readership also fosters the access of special issues and hence it increases their popularity and access by investigators and scientists. As an editor, you have the opportunity to participate in such an endeavor since librarians often would listen to their faculty, particularly, if such a faculty member is a distinguished professor and an editor of a journal. You can drive some of the funds towards the support of your own laboratory.

**Initiative 14. Intervening to include Scholar and Elite Editions of the Frontiers in Bioscience in Web of Science.** Scholar and Elite editions of Frontiers in Bioscience were formed in 2009 and despite their popularity among university libraries, these editions have not so far been included in the Web of Science. As noted in a letter from Thomson Reuters, the inclusion of a journal in their database is based both on determination through communication with customers and also analysis of Web of Science user data. We urge all editors to intervene and participate in discussions with Thomson Reuters to allow the inclusion of these editions in Web of Science.

