

### **From the Editor-in-Chief**

AJBE Vol. 16 features seven research papers/reports, a report with abstracts from the 29th AABE (AABE2024) held this year in Matsuyama, Japan, and other related content. Due to the extensive number of presentations at AABE2024, the page count has increased significantly, making this the largest volume in AJBE's history, spanning 136 pages.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the editorial board and Dr. Shigeaki Atsumi, Dr. Cheung-Ming Chow, Dr. Miyuki Kato, Eva B. Macugay, PhD, and Dino T. Tordesillas, PhD for their invaluable contributions to the peer review process over the past two years. Their dedication and efforts have been instrumental in advancing the journal's quality and reach.

As Editor-in-Chief of AJBE, I see it as my mission to improve the journal continually. My vision is to encourage more researchers to submit their work, ensure the regular publication of high-quality papers, and have these papers widely read worldwide, ultimately contributing to advancements in biology education. To achieve this, we have implemented DOI assignments, registered with J-Stage, and introduced Online Fast publication. This year, we focused on expediting the peer review process, asking reviewers to complete reviews within three weeks whenever feasible. Rapid peer review and publication are essential in today's academic landscape, and I deeply appreciate the cooperation of reviewers in achieving this goal.

Looking ahead, we aim to obtain Creative Commons certification, enhance the AJBE website, and register with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). These initiatives will strengthen the journal's credibility and attract more high-quality submissions. Our long-term goal is to have AJBE indexed in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR). As an intermediate step, inclusion in Clarivate's Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and SCOPUS is essential.

Additionally, converting articles currently provided in PDF format into full-text XML for publication in HTML format while continuing to offer PDF versions is an important subject for consideration. This transition will broaden access to our content. HTML formatting enhances accessibility for non-English-speaking readers by leveraging continuously improving AI translation technologies. These efforts are expected to increase the visibility of AJBE articles and, consequently, their citation opportunities.

Finally, I kindly ask for the continued cooperation and support of AABE members and all those involved in biology education as we strive to further elevate AJBE's impact and reach.

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