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Welcome to Volume 5

Editorial Board

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Welcome to Volume 5

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Abstract

Spora is entering its sixth year with an expanded and evolved focus on publishing a broad spectrum of articles in mathematical biology. Starting with the new volume, manuscripts from student-driven research projects will be considered as long as at least one author is a doctoral, master's, or undergraduate student.

Keywords: student-driven research, mathematics, biology, ecology, statistics

A Milestone for Spora

As *Spora* enters its sixth year, it is re-inventing itself as a journal that publishes high-quality, student-driven research in mathematical biology. Yet, it still remains as the only journal dedicated to biomathematical research conducted or contributed by graduate or undergraduate students and their faculty collaborators.

As a result, manuscripts with *at least one* student co-author will now be accepted after a rigorous and thorough review process. Submitted papers may take various forms, including development and analysis of a mathematical model of a biological system, possibly including experimental work; development of a particular solution or method related to biological systems; or computational, statistical, or theoretical analysis of existing mathematical models in biology. Accepted papers demonstrate an appropriate range of interdisciplinary content and clear exposition, at a level expected from graduate- or undergraduate-student-driven research. Expository papers may be accepted if they are of exceptionally high quality.

Spora is further committed to publishing high-quality manuscripts describing novel findings in experimental biology. Manuscripts may be submitted to the Biology section across a wide range of biological disciplines, including (but not limited to) genetics, molecular and cellular biology, ecology and evolution, and physiology and neurobiology, along with interdisciplinary research in genomics and bioinformatics. Accepted papers present novel, well-supported findings in a clear and concise manner, at a level expected from student-driven research.

We are proud with where *Spora* has come in five short years and looking forward to many more successful volumes.

Volume 5 Preview

In this volume, a research group at Duquesne University studied modeling neural behavior and pain during bladder distention using an agent-based model of the central nucleus of the amygdala under the direction of Dr. Rachael Miller Neilan. Another study on tuberculosis to determine the most effective strategies for treatment and prevention throughout the epidemic was done with a research group under the direction of Dr. Allison L. Lewis of Lafayette College. Dr. Karl R. B. Schmitt of Valparaiso University oversaw a study on predicting the behavior of bighead carp using an agent-based modeling approach.

Last but not least, we would like to thank our silent army of tireless editorial staff. Devin Akman designed the cover artwork of this volume. Editorial Manager Dr. Ryan Bunge worked with the authors of each accepted manuscript to get the articles ready for publication. Of course without our section editors and anonymous reviewers whose efforts make *Spora* a high-quality journal of which we can all be proud, none of these could have happened.