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Fostering Research and Education in Mathematical Biology

Editorial Board

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Fostering Research and Education in Mathematical Biology

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Abstract

As it is releasing the seventh volume, *Spora* has established itself to be a highly respected journal for student-driven research in mathematics, biology, and related fields. *Spora's* role in disseminating work that was conducted by at least one student author makes it a unique platform to expand the body of knowledge in mathematical biology. *Spora* welcomes submissions related to Ph.D. dissertations, master's theses, and undergraduate research projects.

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

Importance of Community-Based Research and Education

While the COVID-19 crisis has brought unprecedented challenges both for people and society, we've been humbled by the wave of inspiring new ideas developed in response. Many scientists with a wide spectrum of expertise and knowledge rushed to contribute in the effort to end the pandemic. Innovation has become more important than ever before. From neighborly acts of kindness to tracking and analyzing important data, the last few months have shone a light on the power of human creativity and collaboration.

The Intercollegiate Biomathematics Alliance (IBA) was no exception with its efforts to support the community of educators, researchers, and scholars who work in mathematical biology. Alongside directly supporting our community, the IBA has been tapping into the skills of our community members and harnessing their expertise to create a range of practical ways to make a positive impact during the pandemic. Offering community courses that can be taken by students who were disadvantaged due to COVID-19 restrictions they had to endure, holding international conferences focusing solely on COVID-19, share data to help fight the spread of COVID-19, and last but not least hosting COVID-19 research and education articles rapidly were only a few of the IBA's actions.

Spora is also part of these efforts. Sponsored by the IBA, its main emphasis is and has always been to provide an accessible platform to future researchers and educators to disseminate their work. As it is starting its seventh year, we are proud of what we have accomplished since 2015.

I encourage you to explore this curated list of resources, future research ideas opportunities, and possible collaborative projects, but I especially invite you to make your

own scientific contribution via *Spora*.

Journal Sections

Manuscripts may be submitted to one of the three sections of *Spora*.

The Biomathematics section publishes high-quality research articles of novel, as well as established, mathematical and statistical approaches to biological hypotheses. Manuscripts should employ an interdisciplinary approach and should be of interest to a wide spectrum of scientists from related fields. Interdisciplinary research from any sub-discipline within the life sciences in conjunction with any sub-discipline within the mathematical and statistical sciences are also considered for this section.

Similarly, the Biology Research section publishes high-quality articles communicating student-driven research in experimental biology. Research from any sub-discipline of biology are considered, and manuscripts should be of general interest to the biological research community.

Finally, the Exposition section publishes high-quality expository articles that describe particular areas of mathematical biology research. Manuscripts in this section may consist of critical and constructive analyses of the literature in a specific field that are part of undergraduate capstone projects, graduate projects, or reviews. For reviews, it is also appropriate to mention any relevant software or instrumentation.

As always *Spora* owes a part of its success to dedicated faculty reviewers, its editorial board, and the editorial support team members.

With deepest gratitude for our reviewers, editors, staff, and especially authors, I welcome you to Volume 7.